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FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT WILDERNESS SUITABILITY REPORT





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and
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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PROPOSED WILDERNESS DESIGNATION OF THE
POWDERHORN INSTANT STUDY AREA

Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties, Colorado

Prepared by

Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior
Montrose District, Colorado

Bob Moore

Acting State Director, Colorado
Bureau of Land Management

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Abstract: This final suitability report and environmental impact statement describes the proposed wilderness recommendation for the Powderhorn Instant Study Area and the environmental impacts associated with five alternatives. The proposed action and alternatives analyze and compare various acreages for designation or non-designation as wilderness.

For Further Information Contact: Type of Action: Legislative
Terry Reed Date EIS Made Available to the
Bureau of Land Management EPA and the Public:
11 South Park Avenue
Montrose, Colorado 81402 Draft: May 7, 1980
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INTRODUCTION

The Powderhorn Wilderness Study was made in response to Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) which provides that formally designated natural and primitive areas be reviewed for their wilderness characteristics and that the Secretary of the Interior report recommendations on their suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness preservation to the President. The review of these areas was to be made according to guidelines in section 3(d) of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Final designation of the area as part of the National Wilderness System is to be made by the Congress.

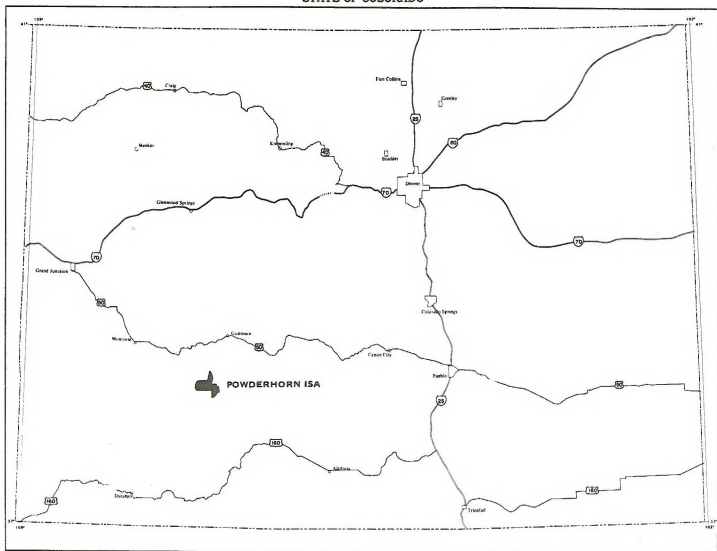
The Montrose District of the Bureau of Land Management inventoried the Powderhorn primitive area and contiguous roadless public lands to determine if the area possessed wilderness characteristics. When it was found that the primitive area and part of the contiguous land possessed wilderness characteristics, BLM then prepared a draft environmental impact statement and wilderness suitability report which were completed on February 1980 and submitted for public comment on March 1980. Public hearings were held on May 27, 1980 in Montrose, Colorado; May 28, 1980 in Gunnison, Colorado; and May 29, 1980 in Lake City, Colorado.

The final wilderness suitability report and environmental impact statement are included in this report. Both reflect additional information and corrections supplied by members of the public and others during the comment period. All written comments received are reprinted in this report. Portions of the hearing transcripts are also reprinted; however, the complete transcripts can be inspected at the Montrose District Office at 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81402 or at the Colorado State Office, 1037 20th Street, Denver, Colorado 80202.

Since publication of the draft wilderness suitability report and environmental impact statement, a 280 acre private inholding was deeded to the United States by Ruthana and Bill Hall of Lake City, Colorado on January 10, 1984. These lands have been incorporated into this final document and are considered as part of the existing Powderhorn Primitive Area.

Additional material related to the report not part of this package includes: The Wilderness Inventory and Gunnison Basin and American Flats/Silverton URA/MFP, and may be reviewed at the Montrose District Office, Montrose, Colorado.

STATE OF COLORADO



LOCATION MAP

FINAL RECOMMENDATION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recommends that the Congress of the United States incorporate the Powderhorn Primitive Area, and all contiguous public lands having wilderness characteristics and deemed manageable as wilderness, as described in this document and totaling 43,311 acres, into the National Wilderness Preservation System. Lands within the study area either lacking wilderness characteristics or deemed unmanageable as wilderness total 28,860 acres (26,940 acres contiguous to the primitive area and 1,920 acres of subsurface mineral estate held by the State of Colorado within the primitive area), and are recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

The Powderhorn contains a unique natural alpine environment of outstanding natural beauty which provides exceptional opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The area meets the criteria of Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964, and multiple use resource analysis revealed no significant resource conflicts resulting from a wilderness designation.



State Director, Colorado

3/10/80

Date

/s/ Robert F. Burford

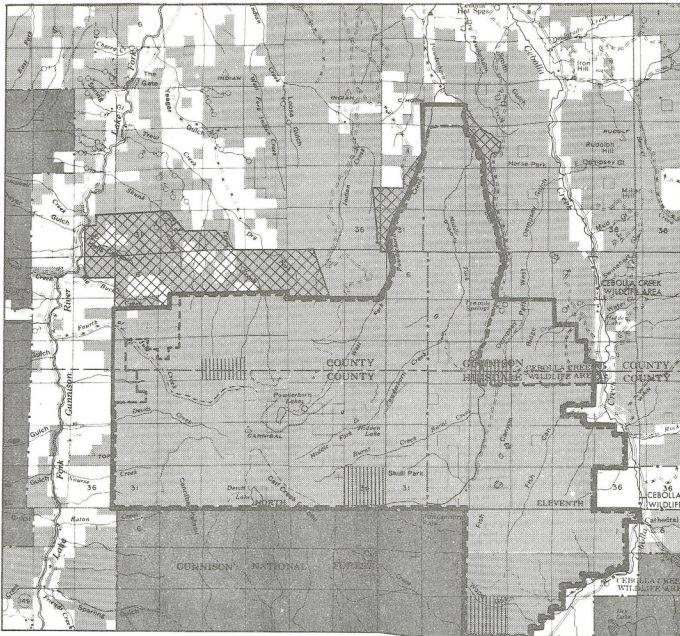
Director, Bureau of Land Management

March 1, 1982

Date

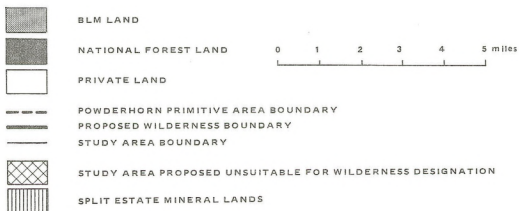
Secretary of the Interior

Date



POWDERHORN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA RECOMMENDATIONS

April 1984



PART 1

FINAL SUITABILITY REPORT



SUMMARY OF WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS .

The lands recommended as suitable for wilderness designation total 43,311 acres. These lands include the existing Powderhorn Primitive Area and contiguous lands containing wilderness characteristics which add to the manageability of the area. These contiguous lands include the Dempsey Park, Powderhorn Creek Confluence, and Fourth of July Creek areas. (See Appendix A, legal description, and map on page vi.)

A total of 5,189 acres of lands contiguous to the primitive area were found to contain wilderness characteristics, but were recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation. These lands were deemed as unmanageable as inclusion of these areas would require either acquisition of approximately 1,000 acres of private lands or closures of existing roads to eliminate "cherrystemming." These contiguous lands include the West Dempsey Gulch, Ten Mile Springs, Skunk Creek, Hells Canyon, Indian Creek, and Irregular tract areas.

A total of 1,920 acres of land within the primitive area was found to contain wilderness characteristics, but was recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation. These lands consist of split estate lands where the Federal government manages the surface and the State of Colorado holds the subsurface mineral rights. The Interior Board of Land Appeals ruled that such split estate lands are unmanageable as wilderness.

Summary of Acreage

Area with Wilderness Characteristics	Primitive Area	Lands Contiguous with Primitive Area	Total
Recommended for designation	38,840	4,471	43,311 *
Not recommended for designation	0	5,189	5,189
Total acreage reviewed for wilderness			48,500
Area without wilderness characteristics	0	26,940	26,940
TOTAL	38,840	36,600	75,440

*This acreage figure does not include the private lands located within the proposed wilderness area. These lands total 40 acres.

Naturalness

Topography and Vegetation

The Powderhorn is characterized by relatively level alpine plateaus deeply dissected by glacial valleys and cirque basins. The elevation ranges from 12,644 feet on Calf Creek Plateau at the southern end to approximately 8,600 feet along Powderhorn Creek at the northern end. Vegetation generally follows the elevation with alpine tundra, spruce/fir forests, ponderosa pine and wide-open parks, and sagebrush/grassland being present. The area also contains several small ponds or lakes in the western half of the unit and includes meadow-type vegetation around these water bodies.

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude

Topography, vegetation and size all contribute to the unit's outstanding opportunities for solitude.

The relatively large size of the unit (43,311 acres) with its rugged and diverse terrain characterized by steep-sided drainages radiating outward from Calf Creek Plateau, provide numerous locations where opportunities for solitude are present. The dense stands of spruce, fir and aspen found along these drainages and on the ridges further enhance solitude opportunities through feelings of seclusion and intimacy. The higher elevations, within the alpine tundra environment of the Calf Creek Plateau, offer sweeping vistas of the surrounding mountains and adjacent proposed or designated wilderness, projecting a feeling of vastness which enhances solitude. Due to these combined factors, the area contains outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Outstanding Opportunity for a Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The block-like configuration and relatively large size of the unit allow for unconfined freedom of movement of recreationists, particularly over the alpine tundra portions of the area. These areas provide outstanding opportunities for hiking or horseback riding during the summer and fall, and cross-county skiing or snowshoeing during the winter and spring periods. Lakes in the area, and the forks of Powderhorn Creek, provide fishing opportunities as well as scenic locations for camping. The varied wildlife of the area, including beaver, ptarmigan, bobcat, mountain lion and sizeable elk herd, provide ample viewing and hunting possibilities. These factors all contribute to provide outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Significant Resource Data

The high, relatively flat alpine tundra topography increases the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation for it allows for freedom of movement without physical barriers. In nearly every adjacent wilderness, or de facto wilderness, the primitive opportunities for the majority of users are limited to trail hiking or horseback riding. The Powderhorn Area

facilitates and promotes cross-country travel which is a more unrestricted recreational experience, and allows for dispersion of the user, enhancing opportunities for solitude.

In addition to the wilderness characteristics, the Powderhorn includes some outstanding and unique supplemental values which add to the wilderness resource:

1. Ecologically, the Powderhorn area encompasses one of the largest and least disturbed, relatively flat alpine tundra areas in the contiguous United States. This ecosystem includes the northern parts of Cannonball and Calf Creek Plateaus.
2. Geologically, the area consists of Tertiary volcanic deposits, both lava flow and ash flow tuff, in some areas believed to be five thousand feet in thickness. Alpine glaciation changed the feature of the landscape by creating cirque basins, glacial tarns, moraine deposits and lakes, U-shaped valleys and rock glaciers.
3. Scientific and educational values exist with opportunities to study and analyze alpine and subalpine ecosystems, and glacial and igneous geology and geomorphology. The Powderhorn area includes a large elk breeding ground and peripheral usage by Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. In the alpine tundra are found ptarmigan as well as a large variety of alpine plant types such as moss campion (*Silene acaulis*), alpine forget-me-not (*Eritrichium elongatum*), and Jacobs ladder (*Polemonium pulcherrimum*).
4. Scenic values are very high due to a combination of diverse vegetative types and topographic landforms which are relatively unique within the region. Man-made features are noticeably lacking or are harmonious with the natural landscape. The Powderhorn offers outstanding views of the San Juan Mountains. These adjacent lands, managed largely by the U.S. Forest Service, include several wilderness or proposed wilderness areas.
5. Historically, the Powderhorn area was utilized by the Ute Indians as a summer hunting ground, as were the majority of the San Juan Mountains. The Powderhorn is believed to be the general area of the infamous Alferd E. Packer's cannibalistic "feast" of five men in the winter of 1874. Some old cabins or remnants are found within the Powderhorn and, although they enhance the appeal of the wilderness resource, their historical value is undetermined at this time.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Previous Designation

Historically, the Powderhorn area has been recognized by the Bureau for its primitive and wild values. In the 1969 Cebolla Unit Resource Analysis, the Powderhorn area was recognized as roadless. In 1970, the Bureau prepared a document entitled Action Plan for Potential "Primitive Area" Designation for Powderhorn Lakes Roadless Area. This report outlined and evaluated a proposal recommending primitive area status be given Powderhorn. The 1972 Cebolla-Powderhorn Management Framework Plan recommended the Powderhorn as a primitive area. In April 1973, the Powderhorn Primitive Area was withdrawn from all forms of disposition under the public land laws, including the mining laws, with the exception of leasing under the mineral leasing laws, for the protection of scenic and primitive values (38 FR 22625; withdrawal file C-17286). In August 1973 the Secretary of the Interior formally designated the Powderhorn Primitive Area (38 FR 23427).

Description of the Report Area

The area surrounding the Powderhorn Primitive Area is rural and sparsely populated by ranch and farm families living along Cebolla Creek and the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River. In addition, to the north of the primitive area is the small community of Powderhorn and to the southwest is the town of Lake City. Much of Lake City's revenues are a result of tourism. The southern portion of the Powderhorn borders a Gunnison National Forest RARE II Area, Cannibal Plateau (31,990 acres), proposed by the Forest Service for further wilderness study. To the west of the Powderhorn is the existing Big Blue Wilderness and to the east is the La Garita Wilderness.

The study area may be reached by three main routes. Access to the northern portion of the area is provided via the BLM's Indian Creek Road. The northeastern portion is served by the Ten Mile Springs Road. The eastern portion of the area is provided access by a county road along Cebolla Creek and by BLM's system of trails in the area.

Of the approximately 75,440 acres inventoried, 48,500 acres were determined to contain wilderness characteristics. These 48,500 acres were found to be primarily natural in character and contained outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Approximately 26,940 acres, consisting of 11 areas, were found to be roadless but lacking wilderness characteristics. Some lands, due to extensive logging of Englemann spruce, Douglas fir and ponderosa pine, or mineral prospecting associated with thorium, titanium and manganese, no longer retain their natural or primeval character. Other areas were excluded for lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. These areas were either physically separated from the ISA boundary or of such narrow conformity and configuration that outstanding opportunities were nonexistent. A total of 1,920 acres of split estate lands within the primitive area, although found to contain wilderness characteristics, were recommended non-suitable for wilderness designation because the

Interior Board of Land Appeals has ruled such split estate lands cannot be managed as wilderness. Upon completion of the Wilderness Study process a total of 43,311 acres were recommended for wilderness designation.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The land use planning (Management Framework Plan or MFP) update for the EIS area was initiated during the fall of 1978. Public meetings were held in Lake City, Gunnison, Silverton, Montrose, and Denver to identify issues and concerns for the planning effort which included the Powderhorn Instant Study Area. The scheduling and purpose of these meetings were outlined in press releases to the local media. During this period coordination meetings were also held for local, state, and federal agencies.

In May of 1979, scoping/planning meetings were held in Lake City, Gunnison, Silverton, Montrose, and Denver in conjunction with completion of the MFP Step II. Prior to the meetings, notice of intent to hold scoping meetings and prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register and local media. Also prior to the meetings, a summary of the MFP II recommendations was sent to interested federal, state, and local agencies, Livestock Grazing Advisory Board, and interest groups, and to all livestock permittees in the EIS area.

Prior to and during the EIS writing process, specific consultation was initiated with several state and federal agencies. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) was consulted concerning threatened or endangered plants and animals. The FWS responded that no endangered species would be affected. The Colorado Division of Wildlife was consulted concerning wildlife populations. The State Historic Preservation Officer reviewed the draft materials for possible impacts on cultural resources.

A public hearing announcement was published in the Federal Register on May 7, 1980. Written notification of the hearings and information on the study were sent to Governor Richard D. Lamm of Colorado; U.S. Senators Gary Hart and William Armstrong; U.S. Representatives Ray Kogovsek, James Johnson, Ken Kramer, Patricia Schroeder and Tim Wirth; five members of the Colorado State Legislature; twelve federal agencies and departments; the Colorado State Clearinghouse; eighteen additional local officials and agencies; and numerous individuals and organizations.

The hearings were held in Colorado at Montrose, Gunnison, and Lake City on May 27, 28, and 29, 1980, respectively. Thirty-two people presented oral testimony at the hearings and ninety-one additional comments were submitted by mail.

Of the total 123 written and oral communications received for the record, 86 supported the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) proposed recommendation for designation for only the existing 40,480 acre Primitive Area, 12 favored the Use Alternative under which no land would be designated as wilderness, 17 were opposed to wilderness in general without favoring a particular alternative; and seven took no position. Additionally, no one favored either the No Action Alternative or the alternative for designating a 48,500 acre wilderness.

Those supporting the BLM's proposed recommendation believed inclusion of the Powderhorn in the National Wilderness Preservation System would best preserve these alpine lands for present and future generations. Some specific reasons given by those in support of wilderness designation of the Powderhorn were: inclusion would preserve a highly scenic area with outstanding opportunities for high-altitude hiking and peaceful solitude; the whole Cannibal-Powderhorn alpine plateau system may be large enough to be a self-sufficient, integrated evolutionary area; the designation of this area as wilderness would be of positive benefit to our country's recreational economy.

Those opposing any wilderness designation believed that the Powderhorn area should be managed under the "multiple use concept." Some specific reasons for opposition to wilderness designation of the Powderhorn were; continued insect activity will make the area more susceptible to fire and less desirable for human use; adoption of a multiple use plan for this area will provide the opportunity to explore and develop the resources contained in the area; wilderness designation might result in stringent regulations being imposed on any kind of development immediately outside wilderness boundaries.

A more specific analysis of public comments, consultation, and coordination is presented in Chapter 5 of Part 2 of the document.

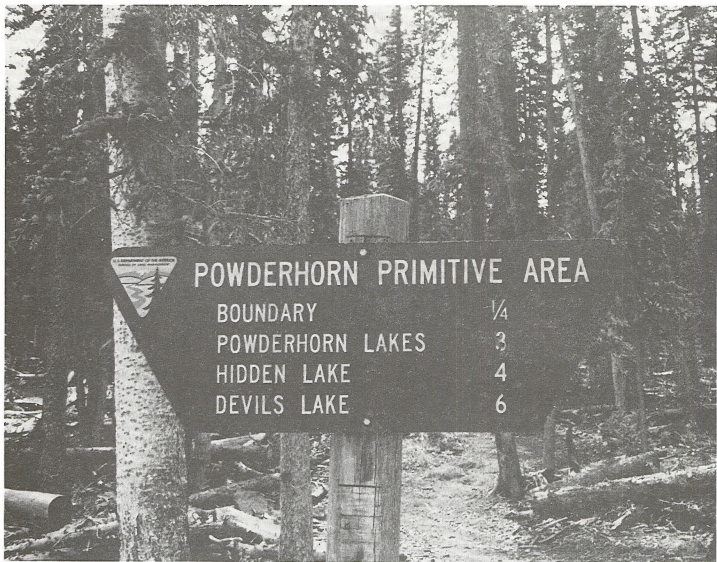
PHOTOGRAPHS



View of the La Garita Wilderness across West Fork Powderhorn Creek
from Big Meadow (T. 45N., R. 3W., Section 11).



View of Lower Powderhorn Lake and the La Garita Wilderness
to the east (T. 45N., R. 3W., Section 22).



Sign at the Indian Creek Trailhead
(T. 45N., R. 3W., Section 1).



Parking lot for the Indian Creek Trailhead
(T. 45N., R. 3W., Section 1).



View of nearby Uncompahgre Peak (Uncompahgre National Forest)
from the ridge leading up to the Calf Creek Plateau
(T. 45N., R. 3W., Section 15).



View from the Calf Creek Plateau looking east
towards the La Garita Wilderness Area
(T. 45N., R. 3W., Section 27).



Phelp's Cabin, located in Phelps' Cabin Park,
may be considered part of the historical value
of the Powderhorn (T. 45N., R. 2W., Section 20).



View of the Skull Park area heavily vegetated in willows
(T. 45N., R. 2W., Section 31).

WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT POLICY

After designation of the Powderhorn as wilderness, a wilderness management plan will be developed. In preparation for this management plan, additional resource data will be collected regarding recreational use distribution, present patterns and future needs. The overriding goal of wilderness management will be to protect and perpetuate the wilderness resource.

The wilderness management plan will be amended from time to time to respond to changing ecological or sociological conditions, and to reflect new findings in the field of wilderness management.

Wilderness areas in the Colorado Rockies are heavily recreation use-oriented in the summer months. Much of this is due to weather extremes, steep topography, high elevation, and, in the winter months, avalanche danger. The Powderhorn Instant Study Area, which contains several expanses of flat to moderate terrain, offers outstanding winter recreational opportunities in the form of ski touring, ski mountaineering, snowshoeing, and winter camping.

The Powderhorn Instant Study Area can also be considered to be an integral part of a wilderness "cluster" in Southwestern Colorado. By being managed under the National Wilderness Preservation System, the Powderhorn area would serve as a link in a circle of wilderness which would include the Lizard Head, Mt. Sneffels, Big Blue, La Garita, and Weminuche Wilderness Areas.

Manageability of the Powderhorn Instant Wilderness Study Area is enhanced by the contiguous U.S. Forest Service RARE II Area, Cannibal Plateau. This RARE II area contains 31,990 acres. The combination of the two areas would create a relatively large, unconfined area, allowing diverse primitive recreational uses, and enhancement of outstanding opportunities for solitude. Present and future use pressures are not anticipated to be heavy, as compared with the Rawah Wilderness near Rocky Mountain National Park, or the Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness near Aspen, Colorado. The Powderhorn Instant Study Area has limited access to some extent through adjacent non-public lands, and its location is not near any large population centers or epicenters of recreational activity. Manageability is further enhanced by the alpine and sub-alpine ecosystems which are included within the proposed boundaries. This would aid in protection of habitat for wildlife and other wilderness resource values.

The Interior Board of Land Appeals has ruled that split estate land, where the surface is administered by the Federal government and the subsurface is privately or state owned, cannot be managed as wilderness. In the case of the Powderhorn Primitive Area, 1,920 acres of split estate land is recommended as nonsuitable for designation as wilderness and will not be managed as such as long as the subsurface mineral estate is not in Federal ownership. The remainder of the area recommended suitable for wilderness designation has been determined to be manageable as wilderness.

In accordance with Section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, once an area has been designated for preservation as Wilderness by Congress, "the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 which apply to National Forest wilderness areas, shall apply with respect to the administration and use of such designated area, including mineral surveys required by Section 4(d)(2) of the Wilderness Act, and mineral development, access, exchange of lands, and ingress and egress for mining claimants and occupants." In addition, upon designation as Wilderness, the Powderhorn Instant Study Area would be administered under the BLM's "Wilderness Management Policy" (September 1981).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

The proposed wilderness designation would not significantly impact economic or social conditions or values.

Social Impacts

Use of the Powderhorn presently is primarily primitive recreation: hunting, fishing, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, photography and nature study. The area is also utilized for cattle and sheep grazing, and scientific and educational study, all of which would continue under wilderness designation.

Economic Impacts

The majority of the public land proposed for wilderness designation is presently managed by the Bureau as a primitive area. Under primitive area status, the cutting of live or dead standing trees is prohibited with the exception of use for fence construction, fire suppression, or for visitor health and safety along trails. Thus, wilderness designation would be no change from the present primitive area status as both designations prohibit commercial timber harvesting.

The only economic impact regarding the commercial forest resources would be those areas in those lands contiguous (4,471 acres) with the Powderhorn ISA proposed for wilderness designation.

Of these 4,471 acres, 2,220 acres have been classified as forested. This includes stands of Douglas fir and Engelmann spruce. Approximately 1,120 acres of the 2,220 acres could be intensively managed. The managed acres could yield 47,000 board feet per year or 470,000 board feet per decade. This would result in a yearly economic loss of approximately \$16,000 (lumber selling value) or \$1,800 (stumpage value - \$40 per MBF)1/.

1/ In 1980, the BLM sold approximately one million board feet of timber on High Mesa, an area northwest of the Powderhorn for \$41 per MBF.

Visitor usage may increase slightly over past use with the designation of the Powderhorn as a wilderness area. However, a more direct cause of increased visitor usage could occur as a result of publicity through trail guides, magazine articles, or through controversy during the designation process. The visitor use increases are anticipated to parallel the national growth rate of wildland use in general.

In 1972, during the Cebolla-Powderhorn MFP process, over 85 percent of the public comments favored establishment of the Powderhorn Primitive Area. During the U.S. Forest Service RARE II process, the State of Colorado received strong pro-wilderness support, although local anti-wilderness sentiment was recorded. While public comment is an important consideration regarding the supply and demand of wilderness, other resource supply and demands must be assessed to compare relative values. In the Powderhorn, there are no other resource demands which are higher nor regional supplies which are lower. Since other resource "needs" are at the same level or lower, regarding the opportunities to be found within the Powderhorn, the concept of supply and demand does not play a deciding factor in a suitability recommendation. Important considerations are the primitive recreational opportunities and qualities the Powderhorn contains, which other nearby wilderness or proposed wilderness areas may not contain.

Long-Term and Short-Term Effects of the Recommendation

Wilderness designation of the Powderhorn Primitive Area and adjacent recommended lands would continue to preserve and protect those lands containing wilderness characteristics in both the long and short term.

Designation would have an adverse impact on the timber resource by preventing commercial timber harvest of an additional 1,120 acres of land identified in the previous section (Economic and Social Impacts). Uses incompatible with the purposes of designation as wilderness are commercial timber harvesting and motorized recreation. These uses are presently prohibited within the Powderhorn Primitive Area.

Options Foregone

The U. S. Bureau of Mines and U.S. Geological Survey have conducted mineral surveys in the Powderhorn. Some small traces of thorium, titanium and manganese were found, but all sites are outside the area proposed for wilderness designation. No mineral resources of economic value were found within the boundaries of the Powderhorn (Appendix C).

As previously stated, 47,000 board feet per year would be removed from timber harvest in 1,120 of the 4,471 acres contiguous to the Powderhorn Instant Study Area.

Under present management of the primitive area, motorized vehicle use is prohibited. This restriction would continue should the area be designated as wilderness by Congress.

Regional Analysis

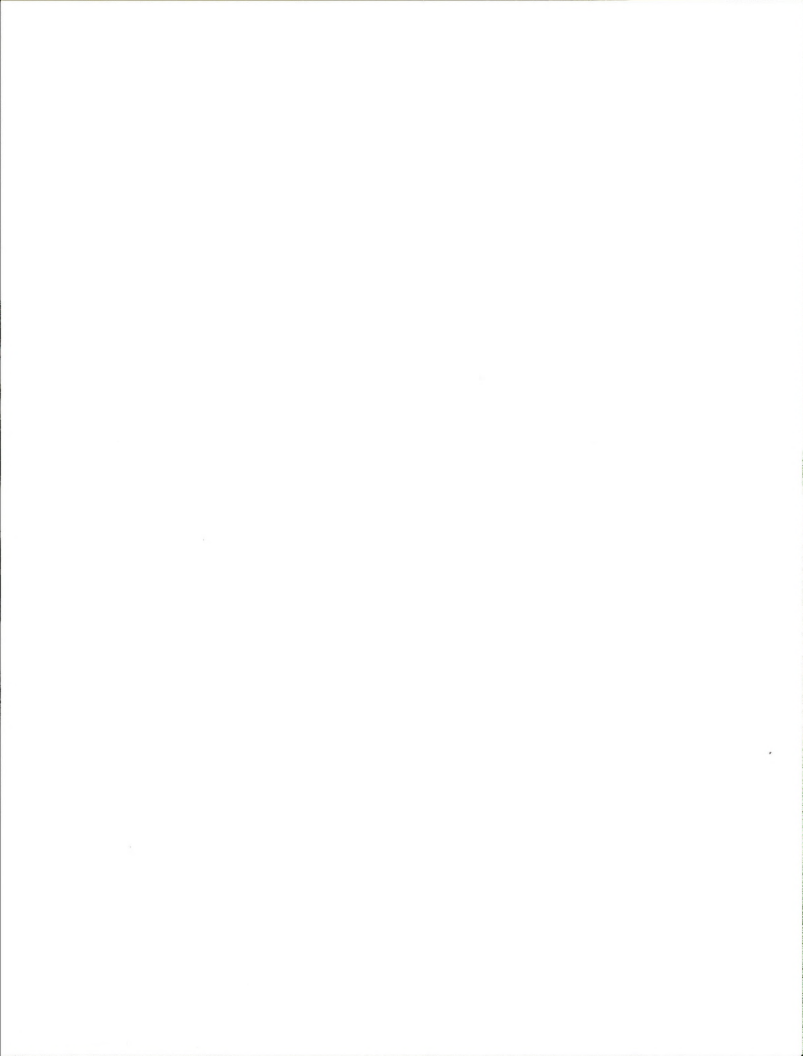
The Powderhorn lies within the northern extremity of the San Juan Mountains in the region known as Southwest Colorado (see Map 1). The region's economy is based primarily upon ranching, farming, mining and recreation.

The largest population centers in Southwest Colorado are:

<u>Town</u>	<u>1970 Population</u>	<u>1980 Population (estimate)</u>
Durango	10,333	10,450
Montrose	6,496	8,668
Cortez	6,032	7,004
Gunnison	4,613	5,780
Delta	3,694	3,925

The population of the Southwest Colorado region in 1970 is estimated at 87,000 residents. As of 1980, there is an estimated 100,000 residents within this region. The majority of residents are within a one-to-two hour driving time to a designated wilderness area. Major population centers (over 100,000 residents) are located on the East Slope (Fort Collins, Denver, Colorado Springs, and Pueblo). Wilderness areas in Southwest Colorado are approximately one-half to a full day's drive from these population centers. Commercial airlines provide service to the communities of Montrose, Gunnison, Durango and Cortez.

There are presently nine designated wilderness areas and a portion of three designated wilderness areas which are formed within the Southwest Colorado Region. In addition, thirty areas within this region are under study by the U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management for possible recommendation to Congress for wilderness designation (see Appendix B).



PART 2

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SUMMARY OF FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Bureau of Land Management recommends to the Secretary of the Interior that Congress designate 43,311 acres of the Montrose District in southwestern Colorado as a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Powderhorn Instant Study Area (ISA) and contiguous lands with wilderness values encompass 48,500 acres total; 38,840 acres in the existing Powderhorn Primitive Area (the ISA) and 9,660 acres of contiguous lands. Five alternatives and the proposed action were considered: (I) Designation of the 38,840 acre Primitive Area and 4,471 Contiguous Acres (Proposed Action); (II) Designation of the Existing Primitive Area (38,840 acres); (III) Use Alternative; (IV) No Action; (V) Designation of All Lands With Wilderness Character (38,840 acres plus 9,660 acres of contiguous lands).

I. Designation of the Primitive Area and 4,471 Contiguous Acres. This alternative would include 43,311 acres.

This alternative would not affect the 38,840 acres presently within the primitive area, since it is now being managed under wilderness guidelines. The contiguous 4,471 acres are potentially manageable under multiple use concepts; therefore, their designation as wilderness would result in resource trade-offs. Some resource values would be foregone in order to preserve others.

The 4,471 contiguous acres contain 6 million board feet (MMBF) of merchantable timber, that could be harvested at a sustained yield rate of 50 thousand board feet (MBF) per year, worth \$2,000 stumpage value (1979 dollars).

Visitor use in the area would increase from 2,155 visitor days (1978) to 3,365 in the short term (1985) and 7,247 in the long term

(1995). These visitor days would have an annual value of \$62,150 in the short term and \$133,860 in the long term.

This alternative would include 40 acres of private land within the wilderness boundaries.

II. Designation of the Existing Primitive Area. This alternative would include 38,840 acres.

This alternative would essentially be a continuation of present conditions, since the area has been managed as a primitive area (under wilderness guidelines) since September, 1973. Therefore, there would be a few impacts on the existing environment.

Visitor use in the area would increase from 2,155 visitor days (1978) to 3,365 in the short term and 7,247 in the long term. These visitor days would have a value of \$62,150 in the short term and \$133,860 in the long term.

III. Use Alternative--Maximum Development, Production, and Use of All Resources. Under this alternative, no acreage would be managed as wilderness.

This alternative could affect the existing primitive area (38,840 acres) and the entire 9,660 contiguous acres with wilderness character. Existing land use withdrawals and restrictions would have to be reviewed. If, through the BLM planning system, the area was designated for other multiple uses, impacts could occur to the wilderness resources as well as most other resources. Such impacts would be analyzed at the time these development plans would be made.

The area contains 64 MMBF of merchantable timber that could be harvested under this alternative at a sustained yield rate of 900 MBF per year, worth \$36,000 stumpage value.

Recreation use could continue at the present rate of increasing use; however, the type of recreation could change from wilderness and backcountry recreation to road and ORV type recreation.

IV. No Action. This alternative assumes continuation of present management in the Instant Study Area (38,840 acres).

Impacts under this alternative would be similar to those described for the Designation of the Existing Primitive Area alternative, except that visitor use would be slightly lower since the area would receive less publicity.

V. Designation of All Lands With Wilderness Character. This alternative would include 48,500 acres.

This alternative would not affect the 38,840 acres presently within the primitive area, since it is now being managed under wilderness guidelines. The contiguous 9,660 acres are presently managed under multiple use concepts; therefore, their designation as wilderness would result in resource trade-offs. Some resource values would be foregone in order to preserve others.

The 9,660 contiguous acres contain 12 MMBF of merchantable timber, that could be harvested at a sustained yield rate of 100 MBF per year, worth \$4,000 stumpage value.

Visitor use in the area would increase from 2,155 visitor days (1978) to 3,365 in the short term (1985) and 7,247 in the long term (1995). These visitor days would have a value of \$62,150 in the short term and \$133,860 in the long term.

This alternative would involve 960 acres of private land within the wilderness boundaries.

Major Areas of Controversy

Many people of Colorado, and particularly the residents of Hinsdale and Gunnison counties, feel that the state already has enough wilderness areas designated. Conversely, other persons feel that additional wilderness is needed in the state. These diverse opinions are repeatedly expressed at public meetings and in the local news media. Because of the lack of historical use and development of the area, many persons question the need for wilderness protection. However, other persons say that the area needs to be protected against any possible future impacts to wilderness values.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the benefits to all resource values are compared to the adverse impacts to all values for all alternatives. In terms of trade-offs, the first alternative (Designation of the Primitive Area and 4,471 Contiguous Acres) would result in the best balance of resource values foregone for those preserved. Since this alternative was formulated through the BLM planning system, it is the Bureau's proposed action: since it would involve the optimum level of resource trade-offs, it is also the preferred course of action.

CHAPTER 1

PURPOSE AND NEED

This environmental impact statement (EIS) discusses the potential impacts of designation into the National Wilderness Preservation System of the Powderhorn Instant Study Area (Powderhorn Primitive Area) and a possible addition of 9,660 acres of contiguous lands with wilderness characteristics (48,500 total acres--see Map 1).

BACKGROUND

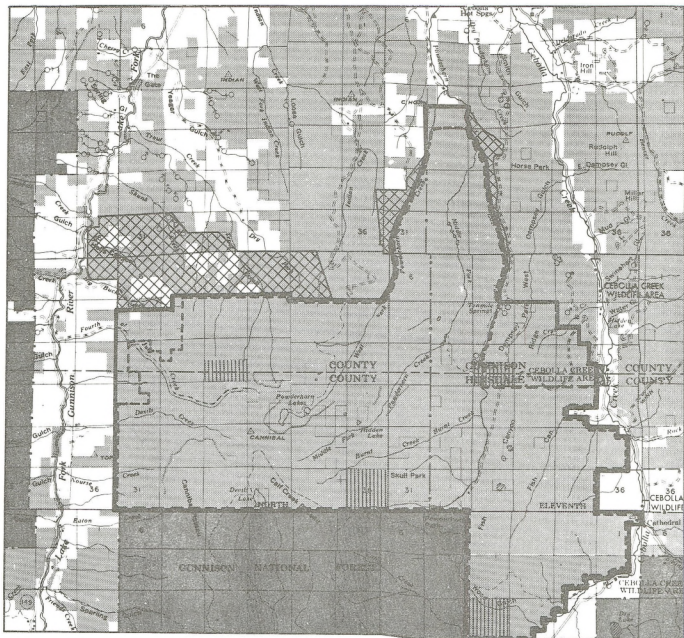
The Bureau of Land Management proposes to recommend to the Secretary of the Interior that Congress designate 43,311 acres of the Montrose District in southwestern Colorado as a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Powderhorn Instant Study Area (ISA) and contiguous lands with wilderness values encompass 48,500 acres total; 38,840 acres in the existing Powderhorn Primitive Area (the ISA) and 9,660 acres of contiguous lands. Five alternatives were considered: (I) Proposed Action Designation of the 38,840 acre Primitive Area and 4,471 Contiguous Acres (Proposed Action); (II) Designation of the Existing Primitive Area (38,840 acres); (III) Use Alternative; (IV) No Action; (V) Designation of All Lands With Wilderness Characteristics (38,840 acres plus 9,660 acres of contiguous lands).

The Powderhorn area has been recognized over the years for its primitive and wilderness values. In the 1969 Cebolla Unit Resource Analysis (URA) the Powderhorn area was recognized as roadless and in 1970 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared a document entitled Action Plan for Potential Primitive Area Designation for Powderhorn Lakes Roadless Area. This report outlined and evaluated a proposal recommending primitive area status be given to 38,840 acres within the Powderhorn area. The 1972 Cebolla-Powderhorn Management

Framework Plan (MFP) recommended the Powderhorn as a primitive area; with public comment on this recommendation being over 85 percent favorable. In August of 1973 the area was withdrawn from all forms of disposition under the public land laws, including the mining laws, with the exception of leasing under the mineral leasing laws, for the protection of its scenic and primitive values. In August of 1973, the Powderhorn Primitive Area was formally designated by the Secretary of the Interior (38 FR 25427). The Powderhorn Primitive Area Management Master Plan was prepared in 1975 using Bureau of Land Management Manual 6221 (Primitive Area Policy), and the Wilderness Act of 1964 as guides. This plan states that the overriding goal guiding management of the Powderhorn Primitive Area is to provide conditions that will allow ecological processes to occur naturally, unaffected by man. The primitive area has been managed according to this plan since 1975.

BLM's Wilderness Program is mandated by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (Public Law 94-579). FLPMA is Congress' basic guidance to the Bureau on how to manage the 470 million acres of public lands under its jurisdiction. One portion of that law (Section 603(a)) directs the Secretary of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management to inventory public lands to identify those that have wilderness characteristics. Lands with wilderness characteristics must then be studied to determine their suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness.

Based on an evaluation of wilderness and other resources use/values in each area determined to contain wilderness characteristics, the Secretary must report his recommendations to the President no later than October 21, 1991, on whether areas should be designated as



MAP I BOUNDARIES

April 1984



BLM LAND



NATIONAL FOREST LAND



PRIVATE LAND



POWDERHORN PRIMITIVE AREA BOUNDARY



PROPOSED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY



STUDY AREA BOUNDARY



STUDY AREA PROPOSED UNSUITABLE FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION



SPLIT ESTATE MINERAL LANDS

0 1 2 3 4 5 miles



wilderness. The President must report his final recommendations to Congress within 2 years. Congress will decide if any of these recommended areas are to become wilderness or not. The law also states that wilderness recommendations on all public land areas which were formally designated as natural or primitive areas prior to November 1, 1975, will be reported to the President by July 1, 1980. These areas, including the Powderhorn Primitive Area, are referred to as Instant Study Areas (ISAs).

To accomplish the mandate of Section 603 of FLPMA, the Bureau has developed a framework for the wilderness review process which has three phases:

1. Inventory--During this phase the public lands are reviewed to locate areas that meet the wilderness criteria established by Congress. Such areas are identified as Wilderness Study Areas.

2. Study--The study phase involves the process of determining, through careful analysis, which Wilderness Study Areas will be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation and which will be recommended as non-suitable. These determinations, made through the BLM's land use planning system, consider all values, resources, and uses of the public lands.

3. Reporting--During the reporting phase suitable and non-suitable recommendations are forwarded through the Secretary of the Interior and the President to Congress. Mineral surveys, environmental impact statements, and other data are also submitted with these recommendations.

The Inventory phase was completed for the Powderhorn Primitive Area and 9,660 contiguous roadless acres during the summer of 1978, when 48,500 acres were found to contain wilderness values and identified as a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (see Map 1). In determining these

wilderness values, the law directs the Bureau to use the criteria given by Congress in the Wilderness Act of 1964. In Section 2(c) of that Act, Congress states that wilderness is essentially an area of undeveloped Federal land in a natural condition, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value (see Appendix RE-1).

PREPARATION OF THE EIS

A number of major concerns were brought forth at the scoping meetings, which are required to be held at the beginning of the environmental review process. Some commenters stated that additional wilderness is necessary in order to protect some parts of the area in their natural state. Others believed that additional wilderness could affect the local economy, since it is dependent to a high degree on motorized recreation and mining. Since a large percentage of land in the area is administered by the federal government, especially in Hinsdale County, some commenters feel that restrictions on use such as wilderness designation could directly affect local businessmen.

Recommendations concerning the Powderhorn area were brought forth during the Gunnison Basin and American Flats/Silverton planning update beginning in the fall of 1978 and continuing into the spring of 1979. Initial public meetings were held in the fall (1978) to identify concerns and issues for the planning effort. In May of 1979, scoping meetings for the Powderhorn Wilderness EIS were held in Lake City, Gunnison, Silverton, Montrose, and Denver.

The Management Framework Plan (MFP) Step II, prepared as part of the BLM Land Use Planning Process, for the Gunnison Basin Resource

Area was completed during the spring of 1979 with the study phase of the Powderhorn review included in this effort. At this time, the MFP Step II recommendation was that the primitive area (38,840 acres) and 4,471 acres of contiguous land be recommended for inclusion into the wilderness preservation system (see Map 1). The remaining 5,189 acres were not recommended for wilderness due mainly to their unmanageable boundaries and private land inholdings.

The Powderhorn ISA is currently in the reporting phase of the review process as mandated by FLPMA; with this EIS being a required element of the report.

CHAPTER 2

ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

ALTERNATIVE DESCRIPTIONS

This chapter describes five possible actions with respect to the Powderhorn study area. They are as follows:

Proposed Action--Designation of the Powderhorn Primitive Area and 4,471 Contiguous Acres--MFP Step II Recommendation - Alternative I

This alternative would recommend to the Secretary of the Interior that Congress designate as wilderness 43,311 acres of the Powderhorn Primitive Area and contiguous lands which is consistent with the recommendations in the Gunnison Basin MFP Step II. The unit includes the existing Powderhorn Primitive Area (38,840 acres), Dempsey Park (2,871 acres), Powderhorn creeks confluence (320 acres), and Fourth of July Creek (1,280 acres). Within the proposed wilderness boundary are included a subsurface mineral estate of 1,920 acres owned by the State of Colorado which is not recommended as suitable for wilderness and 40 acres of private inholdings.

Upon designation, these additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System would be managed by BLM according to provisions of the 1964 Wilderness Act, the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and the 1981 BLM Wilderness Management Policy. Section 4 of the 1964 Wilderness Act, states that wilderness shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreation, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use. Subpart C of section 4 sets the limits on use.

Prohibition of Certain Uses

"Except as specifically provided for in this Act (Wilderness Act of 1964), and subject to existing private rights, there shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness area designated by this

Act and, except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area), there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area."

The special provisions permitting specific activities are discussed in the next subpart and summarized here. The use of aircraft or motorboats, where these uses have already become established, may be permitted to continue and such measures as may be necessary in the control of fire, insects, and diseases would be allowed. These activities would be subject to conditions established by the BLM.

Mineral prospecting for leaseable minerals would be allowed if it could be done in a manner compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environment. The mining laws and all laws pertaining to mineral leasing in effect before designation would remain in effect. These would be subject, however, to such reasonable regulations governing ingress and egress as prescribed by the Secretary, including where essential the use of mechanized ground or air equipment. Surface of land disturbed during the mining activity should be restored as nearly as possible to its original condition.

Prospecting and locating of claims for locatable minerals would be allowed until 1983 on the portions of the study area not covered by the existing mineral withdraw. (see Chapter 3, Affected Environment, Geology and Minerals)

When it serves the public interest the President may authorize the establishment and maintenance of reservoirs, power projects,

transmission lines, roads, and other such facilities.

The grazing of livestock is permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulation as deemed necessary by the Secretary.

Commercial services may be performed within the wilderness area to the extent necessary for recreation or other wilderness purposes.

The Act does not exempt the affected resources from state water laws or responsibilities for wildlife and fish in the area.

These regulations would not significantly alter management of the primitive area, since they have been used as management guides for the area since primitive designation in 1975. The 4,471 acres of contiguous lands would also be subject to these regulations, which could preclude some existing uses.

Private Land Inholdings

The BLM may attempt to acquire, through exchange or purchase, 40 acres of land along the northwestern edge of the Powderhorn Primitive Area. These 40 acres would not be critical to the protection of the wilderness integrity of the Powderhorn, but could improve the manageability of the unit.

Acquisition of these inholdings without consent of the landowner would be unnecessary so long as the private property was used in a manner compatible with the purposes of wilderness designation.

Designation of Powderhorn Primitive Area - Alternative II

This alternative proposes wilderness designation of the existing Powderhorn Primitive Area (38,840 acres). The boundary of this

unit is shown on Map 1 and within this area are 1,680 acres of state owned minerals.

Upon designation by Congress to the National Wilderness Preservation System these lands would be managed by BLM according to the provisions of the 1964 Wilderness Act and the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act which direct the administering agency be responsible for preserving the wilderness character of the area. This management would not be substantially different from the present, since the Wilderness Act was a guiding document for preparation of the existing management plan. Allowed uses of wilderness areas are discussed under the proposed action.

Use Alternative -- Maximum Development, Production, and Use of All Resources - Alternative III

This alternative proposes not designating the Powderhorn Primitive Area (38,840 acres) or any of the 9,660 contiguous acres which contain wilderness values as wilderness. The primitive area would lose its designation and be managed for the maximum development, production, and use that the resources are capable of providing within existing environmental protection standards.

Management objectives under this alternative would be to promote multiple use of the land with emphasis on the highest and best uses.

The area could be opened for exploration and development of locatable, leasable, and saleable minerals, forest management and timber harvest could take place, rights-of-way could be granted across the area, and ORV use could be permitted under existing guidelines.

The present withdrawal in the Powderhorn Primitive Area would be reviewed in light of the management objectives of this alternative, and could be revised or terminated.

No Action - Alternative IV

The No Action Alternative would forego wilderness designation for the Powderhorn Primitive Area (Instant Study Area) or the contiguous lands with wilderness character (48,500 acres total). The Powderhorn Primitive Area would not retain its status as a "Primitive Area" in accordance with BLM Policy; however, management would remain essentially the same as present.

The area would be managed for its scenic and primitive values utilizing BLM Manual 6221 and the Wilderness Act of 1964 as guidance. The existing minerals withdrawal would be reviewed in light of this management.

Designation of All Lands with Wilderness Character - Alternative V

This alternative proposes wilderness designation of the Powderhorn Primitive Area (38,840 acres) and all the contiguous lands with wilderness character (9,660 acres). This area contains inholdings of 960 acres of private surface and 1,920 acres of state owned minerals.

Upon designation by Congress to the National Wilderness Preservation System these lands would be managed by BLM according to the provisions of the 1964 Wilderness Act and the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act which direct the administering agency be responsible for preserving the wilderness character of the area.

This management would not be substantially different from the present for the portion in the primitive area since the Wilderness Act was a guiding document for preparation of the existing management plan. The 9,660 contiguous acres would also be managed consistently with the Wilderness Act.

Private Land Inholdings

The BLM would attempt to acquire through exchange or purchase the 960 acres of private surface. Acquisition of these inholdings without consent of the landowners would be unnecessary so long as the private property was used in a manner compatible with the proposed wilderness designation.

INTERRELATIONSHIPS

Forest Service

The Powderhorn Instant Study Area is bounded to the south by Forest Service RARE II Area No. 218 (31,990 acres), which has been proposed for further study. BLM has a close working relationship with the Forest Service and coordinates its study process with it on a local and regional basis.

State of Colorado

The State of Colorado holds the mineral rights, including ingress and egress, to 1,920 acres within the Powderhorn Primitive Area. The exploration and development of these minerals would be covered under the statutes of the State. The Governor of the State supports wilderness designation. BLM would anticipate a close working relationship with the State in all matters concerning wilderness management of the area should it be designated as wilderness. If the State shows interest in exchanging the mineral rights to these lands, BLM will work closely with State officials to complete the process in an expeditious manner. The 1,920 acres would then become a part of the Powderhorn Wilderness and would be managed accordingly.

Private Landowners

Within the boundaries of the Powderhorn Primitive Area and the 9,660 contiguous acres, there are 960 acres of privately owned land. Should all or part of this area be designated wilderness, the BLM would not need to acquire those lands if the wilderness integrity of the area was maintained.

Other Land Use Plans

Any of the alternatives are compatible with local and state land use plans in the area.

IMPACT SUMMARY

Table 2-1 presents a summary and comparison of impacts between alternatives. For more detail, see Chapter 4.

TABLE 2-1

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Resource	Alternative I Proposed Action	Alternative II Designation of Powderhorn Primitive Area	Alternative III Use Alternative	Alternative IV No Action ^{1/}	Alternative V Designation of all Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
Wilderness Resources	Enhancement, protection, and preservation of wilderness characteristics on some 43,311 acres	Enhancement, protection and preservation of wilderness characteristics on some 38,840 acres	Wilderness values foregone on 48,500 acres	Formal designation of wilderness would not occur; however, 38,840 acres would be managed under wilderness guidelines	Enhancement, protection and preservation of wilderness characteristics on some 48,500 acres
Private Inholdings within the area designated for wilderness	40 acres	0 acres	0 acres	0 acres	960 acres
Minerals	Mineral leasing and location would be permitted until December 31, 1983 on the 4,471 acres of contiguous lands and mineral leasing also would be permitted on the 38,840 acres of existing primitive area until the same date	Mineral leasing would be permitted on 38,840 acres of existing primitive area until December 31, 1983	The entire area would continue to be open to mineral leasing. The present mineral withdrawal within the existing primitive area would be subject to withdrawal review and could lose the withdrawn status	Mineral leasing could take place on all of the 48,500 acres; mineral location could occur on the 9,660 acres of contiguous lands	Mineral leasing and location would be permitted until December 31, 1983 on the 9,660 acres of contiguous lands and mineral leasing also would be permitted on the 38,840 acres of existing primitive area until the same date
Livestock	Portions of eight grazing allotments licensed at 2,002 AUMs would be managed under the wilderness guidelines	Portions of seven grazing allotments licensed at 1,821 AUMs would be managed under the wilderness guidelines	No allotments of AUMs would be managed under the wilderness guidelines	Portions of seven grazing allotments licensed at 1,821 AUMs would be managed under the wilderness guidelines	Portions of nine allotments licensed at 2,251 AUMs would be managed under the wilderness guidelines

TABLE 2-1
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES
(continued)

Resource	Alternative I Proposed Action	Alternative II Designation of Powderhorn Primitive Area	Alternative III Use Alternative	Alternative IV No Action ^{1/}	Alternative V Designation of all Land With Wilderness Characteristics
Forest Resources	An additional 6 MMBF of merchantable timber with a sustained yield of 50 MBF would be withdrawn.	64 MMBF of merchantable timber with a sustained yield of 900 MBF would continue to be withdrawn.	64 MMBF of merchantable timber with a sustained yield of 900 MBF would be added to the existing timber base of the area.	64 MMBF of merchantable timber with a sustained yield of 900 MBF would continue to be withdrawn from the existing timber base.	An additional 12 MMBF of merchantable timber with a sustained yield of 100 MBF would be withdrawn.
Recreation Use	An additional increase of visitor use (approx. 10%) could be added to the present rate (approx. 8%).	An additional increase of visitor use (approx. 10%) could be added to the present rate (approx. 8%).	The present rate (approx. 8%) of increase of visitor use could continue; however, the type of recreation would change from wilderness and back-country use to more road and ORV type of use.	increase visitor use would continue at the present rate (approx. 8%).	An additional increase of visitor use (approx. 10%) could be added to the present rate (approx. 8%).
Economica	Annual recreation values would continue to increase at the same rate as visitor use would increase: An additional \$2,000 (annually) of merchantable timber would be withdrawn from the market area.	Annual recreation values would continue to increase at the same rate as visitor use would increase: The \$36,000 (annually) of merchantable timber would continue to be withdrawn.	Annual recreation values would continue to increase at the same rate as visitor use would increase: Approximately \$36,000 (annually) of merchantable timber could be added to the market area.	Annual recreation values would continue at approximately \$23,460 and approximately \$36,000 (annually) of merchantable timber would continue to be withdrawn.	Annual recreation values would continue to increase at the same rate as visitor use would increase: An additional \$4,000 (annually) of merchantable timber would be withdrawn from the market area.

^{1/} The no-action alternative is the same as the present situation.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENTIntroduction

This chapter describes the environment of the study area, which encompasses the existing Powderhorn Primitive Area and 9,660 contiguous acres. This description serves as a basis for the discussion of impacts of all alternatives identified in the previous chapter.

Climate and Air Quality

According to Sullivan (1977), "climatic conditions (in the area), particularly at the higher elevations, are severe. Temperature ranges are extreme, ranging from approximately -50 degrees F to 95 degrees F. Frost is not uncommon during any month. Mean annual precipitation varies from about 14 inches in the north to about 32 inches in the higher elevations to the south. Most of the precipitation falls as snow during the winter. Snow depths are quite variable, being influenced by exposure and altitude. The heaviest snowfall occurs in the southern portion of the area. Daily thunderstorms are the rule, rather than the exception, during the summer. Winds come from any direction but the prevailing wind is from the west and southwest. Strong winds are often encountered above tree line."

Air quality in the area is very good, approximating most other pristine, high altitude areas in the west. The area is presently a Class II area. On September 7, 1979, a Department of the Interior Task Force recommended to Congress that the Powderhorn Primitive Area be classified a Class I air quality area. Congress has not taken action on the recommendation.

Geology and Minerals

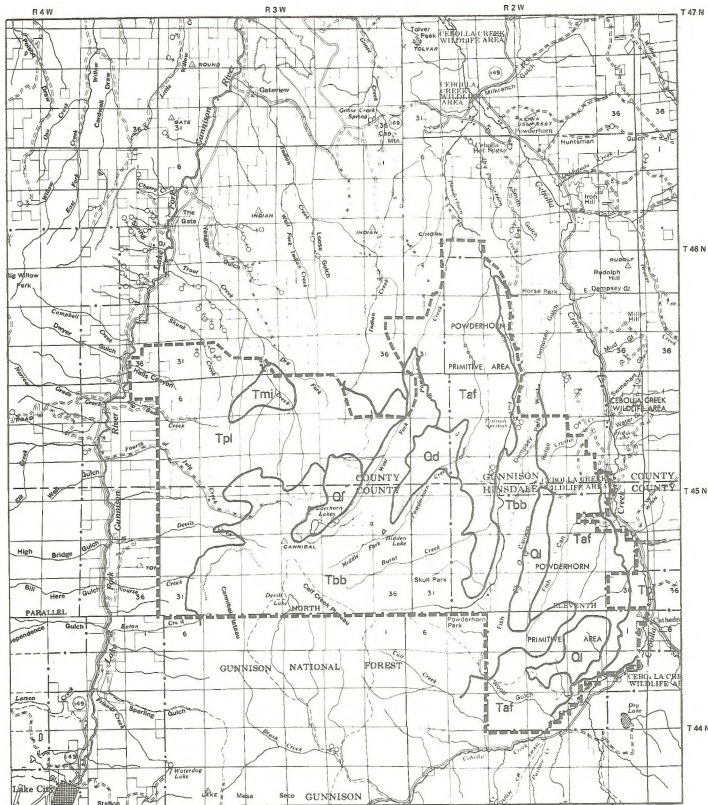
The Powderhorn Primitive Area was covered by ash flow tuff and lava flows between 10 and

35 million years ago (Tertiary Age). These volcanic deposits are believed to be 5,000 feet thick in some areas, overlying Precambrian rocks over 600 million years old (see Map 2). Pleistocene glaciation (up to 10,000 years ago) altered the landscape by creating cirque basins, glacial tarns, moraine deposits and lakes, U-shaped valleys, and rock glaciers.

The mineral and energy potential of the Powderhorn Instant Study Area are low according to Open-file Report 80-1057, "Preliminary Report on the Mineral Resource Potential of the Powderhorn Instant Study Area, Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties, Colorado." Portions of this report by the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Bureau of Mines, is in the appendix and the complete report is available for inspection at the Montrose District BLM office. Despite its proximity to known mineralized areas near Lake City on the west and Powderhorn on the north and northeast, the geologic, geochemical, or geophysical surveys of the Powderhorn Instant Study Area did not disclose the presence of any significant mineral resources within the study area.

A review of past mineral activity indicates an absence of active mining and mining claims. There have been no mining claims recorded with the BLM in the existing primitive area or adjacent areas.

Sections 20, 21, and 17, T. 46 N., R. 2 W., New Mexico Principle Meridian are included in an area that has been designated by the Geological Survey as being prospectively valuable for geothermal energy. This designation is based on the proximity of Cebolla Hot Springs. The hot springs are located near the town of Powderhorn along the south-to-northwest trending Cimarron Fault. However, the potential for geothermal resources within



----- Primitive Area and 9,660 Contiguous Acres (Wilderness Study Area) 0 1 2 3 4 5 miles

- Ql Qd Qg Recent Alluvium, Terrace Deposits, and Landslide Deposits
 Tbb Tertiary (Miocene) Basalt Flows and other Interbedded Volcanic Rock Types
 Taf Tertiary (Oligocene) Ash-flow Tuff
 Tmi Tertiary (Miocene or Oligocene) Intrusive Rocks
 Tpl Tertiary (Oligocene) Andesitic Lavas and Volcanic Breccia

Map 2 GEOLOGIC MAP

the Primitive Area or contiguous areas is not considered to be significant because these areas are not located along the trend of this fault.

No geothermal leases or applications for lease exist within the Primitive Area or contiguous areas. Geothermal leases have been issued for areas near the Cobolla Hot Springs, but no exploratory drilling has been conducted on these leases. The Geological Survey has not classified any part of the study area as a geothermal resource area (KGRA).

Since there are no indications of the presence of sedimentary rock strata in the existing Primitive Area or contiguous areas, it is very unlikely that coal, oil, or carbon dioxide are present.

Certain types of industrial minerals may be present within the volcanic rocks which cover most of the area. No information is available on the presence or absence of this type of mineralization, but minerals such as sodium zeolites are commonly associated with the volcanic rock types found in this area. At present, there are no leases for industrial minerals within the Primitive Area or contiguous areas.

A minerals withdrawal for the Powderhorn Primitive Area was put into effect August 17, 1973. This withdrawal precludes the filing of any subsequent claim for locatable minerals. Leaseable minerals are exempt from the withdrawal. There are no mineral leases in the existing primitive area or contiguous areas.

A total of 1,920 acres (described as T. 45 N., R. 3 W., Section 36 and S1/2 of Section 16; T. 44 N., R. 2 W., Section 16; and T. 45 N., R. 2 W., S1/2 of Section 16) are federal surface estate with the mineral estate retained by the State of Colorado when the lands were reconveyed to federal ownership (see Map 1). The mineral estate of these lands is not subject to the provisions of

federal mining laws and mineral leasing laws. It is, however, subject to mineral entry for the purpose of prospecting, exploration, development, and extraction of the mineral resources as provided by statutes of the State of Colorado. This includes the right of ingress and egress for such purposes.

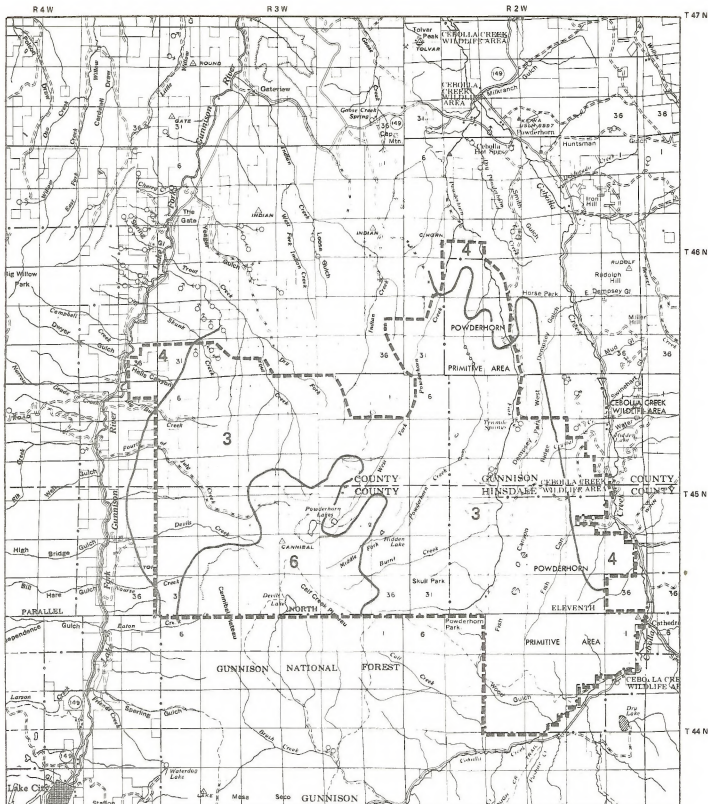
Soils

The Powderhorn Primitive Area and adjacent lands lie within the boundaries of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Soil Survey of the Gunnison Area, Colorado (SCS 1975). Map 3 represents the distribution of broad soil associations in the EIS area.

The Vulcan-Wetterhorn-Ruby association is located on uplands and supports a vegetation of Engelmann spruce on Vulcan and Wetterhorn soils and cool-season grasses on Ruby soils. The Posant-Woodhail-stony rock land association is formed in uplands and the vegetation consists of open stands of conifers and an understory of big sagebrush and grass. The Meredith-Rockslides association occurs on long, uniform slopes, ridges, and rmlands above timberline.

Appendix S-1 lists the soil series mapped in the Powderhorn Primitive Area and adjacent areas being considered for wilderness designation and indicates pertinent physical properties of each. More detailed soil survey data are contained in the Soil Survey of Gunnison Area, Colorado, which is available at the Montrose BLM District Office.

The natural erosion rate on the lower elevation sagebrush parks is less than 0.8 ton/acre/year. The erosion resulting from natural and human-related activities may be as high as 4 tons/acre/year in a few of these areas, with cattle grazing the most significant cause. The subalpine forests generally have low erosion rates, less than 0.1 ton/acre/year. Quantifiable data are lacking for the alpine areas.



----- Primitive Area and 9,660 Contiguous Acres (Wilderness Study Area)

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 3 | Vulcan-Wetterhorn-Ruby association: Deep and moderately deep, moderately sloping to steep, well-drained gravelly sandy loams and stony loams on mountains, ridges, and mesas |
| 4 | Poast Woodhall Stony rock land association: Shallow and moderately deep, moderately sloping to very steep, well-drained gravelly loams and stony and rocky areas on mountains, hills, and ridges |
| 6 | Meredith Rockslides association: Deep stony well-drained strongly sloping to very steep soils and rockslides on mountain and alpine inland |

Map 3 GENERAL SOIL MAP



FIGURE 3-1

TABLE 3-1
CHEMICAL WATER QUALITY

Name	Water Quality Class	Quality Description	Parameter(s) Of Concern
Burnt Creek	WQ-2**	Fair***	Fe
Fish Canyon	WQ-1*	Good	(Possible NO ₃)
Hidden Lake	WQ-1	Good	-
Hot Springs Creek	WQ-2	Fair	Fe, Mn, AL
Indian Creek (upper)	WQ-1	Good	-
Phelps Cabin Creek	WQ-1	Good	-
Pine Creek	WQ-1	Good	-
Powderhorn Swamp Creek	WQ-1	Good	-
Powderhorn Creek	WQ-2	Fair	Fe
East Fork Powderhorn Creek	WQ-2	Fair	Fe
West Fork Powderhorn Creek	WQ-1	Good	-
Middle Fork Powderhorn Creek	WQ-1	Good	-

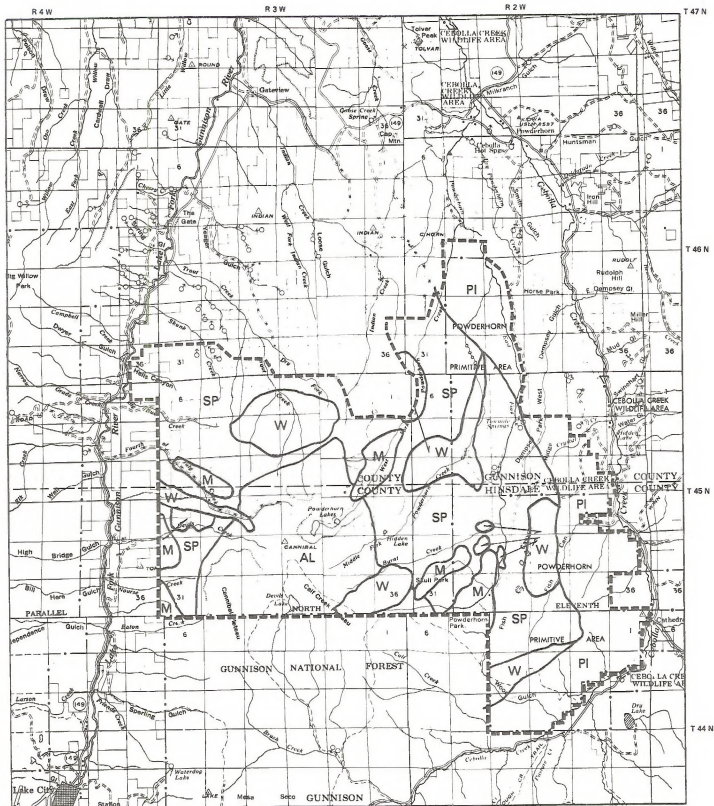
* WQ-1 Meets all chemical water quality standards for drinking water.

** WQ-2 Exceeds one or more standards, non-toxic.
(WQ-1 and WQ-2 are federal and state standards)

*** Subjective description based on Water Quality Class

Fe = Iron, Mn = Manganese, NO₃ = Nitrate, AL = Aluminum

Source: Gunnison Basin Unit Resource Analysis 1979



----- Primitive Area and 9,660 Contiguous Acres (Wilderness Study Area)

- | | |
|----|--|
| PI | Mixed Ponderosa Pine / Douglas Fir, Sagebrush, and Bristle-cone Pine |
| M | Meadows |
| W | Willow |
| SP | Spruce / Fir |
| AL | Alpine |

Map 4 VEGETATION MAP

The most noticeable erosional features are the striated pattern of scars in portions of the alpine zone and active gullying in a few of those locations. They result from sheep trailing and occur primarily on Cannibal Plateau above Devils Lake. Cattle grazing along limited portions of some lower elevation riparian areas causes some streambank sloughing and soil compaction. The hummocky appearance of the ground in Powderhorn swamps is an extreme example of this (Figure 3-1).

Areas in which recreation activities are concentrated, primarily Powderhorn Lakes and the trails leading to these areas (Map 1), are subject to slightly accelerated soil erosion and compaction. One additional area where accelerated erosion is occurring is the way (see glossary) over Fish Canyon Ridge. Gullying is especially noticeable from the ridge down the steep grade paralleling Bear Gulch.

Water Resources

The total EIS area lies within the Upper Gunnison River Basin. The elevation varies from about 8,800 feet to 12,644 feet and the topography varies from steep sided drainages at the lower elevations to plateaus and steep-sided ridges at the upper elevations. "The general drainage pattern is radial, radiating around Calf Creek and Cannibal Plateaus. The entire area drains into either Cabolla Creek or the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River and these both flow into the Gunnison River at the Blue Mesa Reservoir. The major drainages are the East, Middle and West Forks of Powderhorn Creek, Trout Creek and Devils' Creek." (Sullivan 1977).

Because of the large beaver and other wildlife populations, livestock grazing, and uncontrolled camping, fecal pathogens in drinking water are a threat to the area's recreationists. For an analysis of the areas chemical water quality see Table 3-1.

Vegetation

Vegetation Types

The natural vegetation in the Powderhorn Primitive area consists of a mosaic of vegetation types. Each type is characterized by one or two conspicuous dominant plant species, or an association of several codominant species. More detail on the plant species may be found in USDI, BLM 1980. See Map 4 for an overview of the vegetation types.

Sagebrush. Big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata vaseyana*) parks interspersed with ponderosa pine, are present in the lower elevations of the primitive area. Douglas rabbitbrush and antelope bitterbrush often associated with sagebrush, are also present.

Ponderosa Pine-Douglas Fir. The ponderosa pine-Douglas fir vegetation type is composed of two rather distinct subtypes that occur in the same altitudinal range, but which occupy areas with different environmental conditions. Ponderosa pine grows at approximately 7,000 to 9,000 feet, on relatively dry mesas and south-facing slopes. The Douglas fir subtype is most well developed at the same elevation, but occupies areas which are more moist—usually protected north-facing slopes. Bristlecone pine may also occur near the upper limit of the ponderosa pine-Douglas fir type, usually on dry, south-facing slopes.

Aspen. Aspen occurs as a stable, rather continuous forest belt in the primitive area between 9,500 and 10,500 feet, although it extends as low as 8,500 feet and as high as 11,200 feet. Understory vegetation beneath aspen is typically very lush and consists of a large diversity of grasses and forbs.

Meadows. Meadows are common in the woodlands of the lower mountains and subalpine areas in the Primitive Area. The plant composition of the meadows varies with elevation,

associated vegetation types, and relative moisture content of the soil. Dry meadows in the lower part of the primitive area (with or near ponderosa pine-Douglas fir) often include Arizona fescue, Columbia needlegrass, oatgrass, mountain muhly, junegrass, pine dropseed, western yarrow, and harebell. In subalpine areas (among spruce-fir or aspen) Thurber's fescue, Idaho fescue, rough bentgrass, alpine timothy, spike trisetum, orange sneezeweed, and cinquefoil may also be present. Wet meadows consist of tufted hairgrass, reedgrass, buttercups, marsh marigolds, shrubby cinquefoil, and a variety of sedges and rushes. They are often associated with the riparian zone.

Spruce-Fir. The spruce-fir type consists of Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir in rather dense stands. Engelmann spruce is the dominant tree of this type, with subalpine fir of lesser abundance (largely due to Engelmann spruce's longevity). The spruce-fir forest is characterized by an unevenness in the age of the trees, along with numerous standing dead trees, and the forest floor is littered with dead trunks of all sizes and in varying degrees of decomposition (Langenheim).

Spruce-fir is present at altitudes between 8,500 and 12,000 feet. It occupies only the north slopes at its lower altitudinal limit, and at the upper limit, which is timberline, the trees become dwarfed and contorted. Spruce-fir is the dominant vegetation type between 10,000 and 11,500 feet.

Alpine. The alpine type begins at timberline, where twisted, contorted Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir, collectively called Krummholz, are present. It extends from approximately 11,000 feet to the summits of high peaks, above 14,000 feet. The vegetation of the alpine type is typically dense, with less than 5 percent bare ground.

The lower 1,000 to 2,000 feet of the alpine zone is characterized by tall grasses, sedges,

and erect forbs. In the higher portions of the alpine zone, above approximately 12,000 feet, an abundance of cushion, rosette mat, and low-tufted plants occur.

Kobresia, a sedge-like plant, covers large areas above timberline, mainly on windswept ridges.

Boulder fields and talus slopes are common within the alpine zone. Vegetation is very sparse on these substrates.

A plant species may vary in size considerably from the lower edge of the alpine zone to the upper edge. An example is alpine timothy, which may be 35 to 40 centimeters tall near timberline, and just 10 to 15 centimeters tall at 13,000 feet elevation.

A large expanse of alpine willows occurs on Calf Creek Plateau.

Riparian. The riparian vegetation type occurs along the streams within the primitive area. Plants commonly associated with the riparian zone are willows, alders, and birches, with willows being the dominant plant type. Cattails, sedges, rushes, bulrushes, spikerushes, and Kentucky bluegrass occur adjacent to watercourses in areas with ground water very near the surface.

Terrestrial Wildlife

The EIS area is an environment for numerous terrestrial wildlife species. The most prominent of these are 360 head of elk, 220 head of mule deer, and 5 head of bighorn sheep. Most of these animals are in the area only from spring through fall, travelling to lower elevations with the advent of winter snow.

The area is also habitat for many other species of wildlife. Some of the animals occurring in the EIS area are listed in Table 3-2 by habitat type. There are five basic

habitat types: riparian, woodland, meadow, rock, and alpine. These types are the same as the vegetation types described in the Vegetation section, except that the woodland habitat type encompasses the spruce-fir, aspen, and ponderosa pine-Douglas fir type. Detailed lists of the mammals and birds occurring in the EIS area are contained in a Master's Thesis by Sullivan (1977), available at the BLM District Office in Montrose, Colorado. There are presently no threatened or endangered species in the EIS area.

Aquatic Wildlife

The major streams draining the EIS area are the East, Middle, and West Forks of Powderhorn Creek, Fourth of July Creek, West Fork Indian Creek, and Trout Creek. Tributaries to these streams and other major tributaries draining the EIS area are listed in Table 3-3 which also indicates the approximate mileage that would be affected by the actions proposed in this EIS.

There are an estimated 67.4 total miles of stream habitat in the EIS area. All of these stream miles are considered to be potential fish habitat. Of the 67.4 total miles of habitat (aquatic and riparian), 63.9 miles are perennial and 62.3 stream miles flow through lands administered by the BLM.

The fishery resource in the EIS area consists primarily of the major drainages listed in Table 3-3. At the present time, there are no data on the habitat condition or fish species present in approximately 38 percent of the stream miles under consideration. However, an extensive overview of the area seems to indicate that many of the streams listed provide potential fish habitat. Brook trout and brown trout appear to be most numerous in the stream miles intensively surveyed. Rainbow and cutthroat were observed in West Fork

Powderhorn Creek only. (Refer to the Gunnison Basin Livestock Grazing EIS for a further discussion on species present).

Lakes and Reservoirs

The Upper and Lower Powderhorn Lakes (33 surface acres), Devils Lake (43 surface acres), and Hidden Lake (2 surface acres) constitute the major lake fishery in the EIS area. The Powderhorn Lakes have been stocked for the last 18 years by fixed wing aircraft; Devils Lake has been stocked by air for the last 11 years. Severe winter kill of fish occurred in 1982-83 in Devils Lake and Upper Powderhorn Lake. The stocking tables along with detailed physical descriptions of these lakes may be referred to in BLM 1979a and 1979b.

Livestock Grazing

The EIS area includes all or a portion of nine grazing allotments (Map 5). Seven of these allotments are cow allotments of which three are presently under allotment management plans (AMPs). The remaining two allotments are sheep allotments which do not have AMPs.

The cow allotments are Powderhorn AMP (6104), Indian Creek (6103), Yeager Gulch (6105), Cebolla Creek (6112), Lake Fork (6127), Ute Trail (6116), and Hells Canyon (6131). The grazing period on these allotments is from mid-May to mid-October. The allotments under AMP are Yeager Gulch, Indian Creek, and Powderhorn AMP. Yeager Gulch is a 4-pasture rest-rotation and Powderhorn AMP is a 5-pasture rest-rotation system.

The sheep allotments are Powderhorn (6102) and Devils Lake (6115). The grazing season on these allotments is from mid-July to mid-September.

TABLE 3-2

TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL SPECIES BY HABITAT TYPE

	Riparian	Woodland	Meadow	Rock	Alpine
<u>Mammals</u>					
Elk	X	X	X		X
Mule Deer	X	X	X		X
Bighorn Sheep			X	X	X
Black Bear	X	X	X		
Mountain Lion	X	X	X		
Coyote	X	X	X		
Bobcat	X	X	X		
Beaver	X				
Porcupine	X	X	X		
Marmot	X	X	X	X	X
Pika				X	X
Pocket Gopher	X	X	X		
Cottontail					
Rabbit	X	X	X		
Snowshoe Hare	X	X	X		
Red Squirrel	X	X			
Ground Squirrel	X	X	X		
Chipmunks	X	X	X		
<u>Birds</u>					
Blue Grouse	X	X	X		
Ptarmigan	X				X
Waterfowl	X				
Shorebirds	X				
Raptors	X	X	X	X	
Passerines	X	X	X	X	X
<u>Reptiles</u>					
Wandering Garter Snake	X				

TABLE 3-3

MAJOR STREAM MILES AFFECTED IN THE EIS AREA 1/

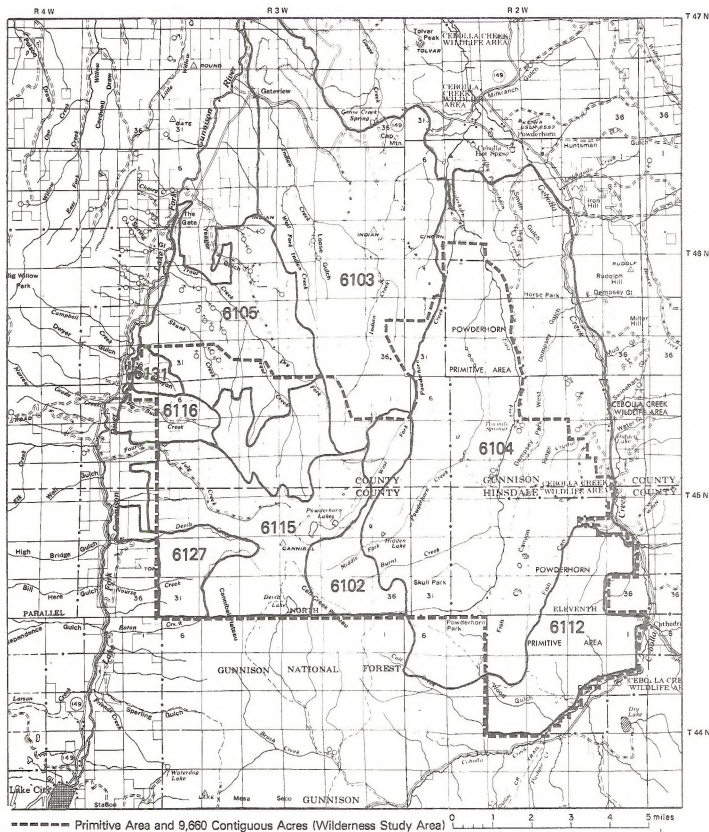
Stream Name	Approximate Miles				Fish Species Present 2/	Aquatic Habitat Condition 3/
	Total		BLM			
	Per.	Inter.	Per.	Inter.		
East Fork Powderhorn	11.6		11.6		Bk, Bn	Good
Middle Fork Powderhorn	10.2		10.2		Bk, Bn	Fair
West Fork Powderhorn	9.1		9.1		Bk, Bn, Rb, Nt	Excellent
Phelps Cabin Creek	1.9		1.9		ND	ND
Burnt Creek	4.5		4.5		ND	ND
Fish Canyon	3.2		3.2		ND	ND
Wood Gulch	2.3		2.3		ND	ND
Devils Creek	3.0		3.0		ND	ND
Fourth of July Creek	4.5		3.8		Bk	Fair
Trout Creek	7.8		3.9		None	Fair
Big Buck Creek	2.2	0.6	2.2	0.4	ND	ND
Hells Canyon		1.5		1.2	ND	ND
Skunk Creek	1.5		1.5		ND	ND
Indian Creek	0.3		0.3		None	Fair
Crystal Creek		1.4		1.4	ND	ND
West Dempsey Gulch	1.8		1.8		ND	ND
Subtotals	63.9	3.5	59.3	3.0		
TOTALS		67.4		62.3		

Note: Per. = Perennial; Inter. = Intermittent; ND = No data.

1/ Miles based on USGS quads

2/ Bk = Brook; Bn = Brown; Rb = Rainbow; Nt = "Native" cutthroat

3/ Based on Gunnison Basin Livestock Grazing EIS



Map 5 LIVESTOCK GRAZING ALLOTMENTS

As noted in Table 3-4, the allotments total 75,547 acres and 3,971 AUMs. The allotments or portions of allotments included within the EIS area total 40,929 acres and 2,251 AUMs.

The range facilities in these allotments consist of springs and fences. There are nine springs in the area of which six are in the Yeager Gulch Allotment, three are in the Powderhorn AMP Allotment, and one is in the Indian Creek Allotment. There are approximately 2 miles of fence in the area of which 0.75 mile is in the Hells Canyon Allotment, 0.75 mile is between the Yeager Gulch and Ute Trail allotments, and 0.5 mile is in the Powderhorn AMP.

Cultural Resources

The Powderhorn area has not been the subject of an inventory or site recording of its cultural resources. The land surrounding the primitive area has had very limited sampling and its prehistoric use is very poorly understood. The general prehistory of the Gunnison Basin has been addressed by a BLM Class I Inventory (overview), The Archeological Resource Areas, West Central Colorado, by Allan D. Reed and Douglas D. Scott. The history of the Gunnison Basin has also been addressed in a Class I Inventory; A Frontier in Transition; A History of Southwestern Colorado, by Paul M. O'Rourke. Both documents are available at the Montrose District Office of the BLM.

Archeological Resources

Although no sites have been recorded in the Powderhorn area, prehistoric values are likely to be present in the area. There are little data on which to make definitive statements concerning the prehistory. It currently appears man has resided in the area for the last 10,000 years. During that time he followed an archaic or hunting gathering

lifestyle seasonal round, but he may not have resided in the Gunnison Basin on a year-round basis. He may have used the area more intensively during the warmer months of the year. There is some evidence of a period of climatic change during and immediately after the altithermal era. Most elevation ranges and ecozones were used prehistorically and by the historic Utes during their seasonal round of hunting and gathering. The only aboriginal occupants of the area known to historic sources were the Ute Indians.

The Powderhorn area is high in elevation and contains no known archeological resources. Few inventories have been taken, however four sites are known (5GN 85-88) which are located along the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River. All of these sites are lithic scatters that suggest a high mountain ecozone exploitative strategy.

Historical Resources

Historical development in the area has been marked by a changing perception of resource utilization. Initial and significant development began with prospecting and mineral extraction in the 1870s. The lure of potential mineral resources in the region, spurred by rich finds in the Central Rockies, prompted major yet often transitory settlement, forced treaty negotiations with Ute inhabitants, and fostered the construction of necessary transportation arteries through the mountains. With removal of the Utes in 1881 and the immediate entrance of the railroads, a second and more diverse period of development took place. Railroad transportation had a profound impact on the growth and consolidation of the mining industry in the period from 1881 to the turn of the century. Accessibility promoted new migration to the area, and town development took on a more permanent character. The substantial growth in the region after 1881 prompted the significant rise in agriculture and livestock industry. The decline in the

TABLE 3-4

ACREAGES AND AUMS BY ALLOTMENT UNDER EACH ALTERNATIVE

Allotment (number)	Total <u>1/</u> Acres in Allotment	Total <u>2/</u> AUMs in Allotment	Acres <u>3/</u> Under the Proposed Action	AUMs Under the Proposed Action	Acres <u>4/</u> In the Existing Prim. Area	AUMs in the Existing Prim. Area	Acres in <u>5/</u> Total EIS Area	AUMs in Total EIS Area
Powderhorn AMP (6104)	26,799	1,200	17,279	720	14,400	600	17,279	720
Indian Creek (6103)	18,714	800	936	40	936	40	1,871	80
Yeager Gulch (6105)	7,206	646	360	32	360	32	2,162	194
Cebolla Creek (6112)	6,477	327	6,477	327	6,477	327	6,477	327
Lake Fork (6127)	1,784	44	1,427	35	1,427	35	1,427	35
Ute Trail (6116)	747	37	149	7	0	0	448	22
Hells Canyon (6131)	723	32	0	0	0	0	723	32
Powderhorn (6102)	4,022	347	3,821	330	3,821	330	3,821	330
Devils Lake (6115)	<u>7,075</u>	<u>538</u>	<u>6,721</u>	<u>511</u>	<u>6,014</u>	<u>457</u>	<u>6,721</u>	<u>511</u>
TOTALS	75,547	3,971	37,170 <u>6/</u>	2,002	33,435 <u>6/</u>	1,821	40,929 <u>6/</u>	2,251

1/ Entire allotment, including areas outside of any of the alternatives.

2/ AUMs reflect the recommendations contained in the Gunnison Basin Management Framework Plan and analyzed in the Gunnison Basin Livestock Grazing EIS. They would not be affected by any of the wilderness alternatives.

3/ Includes the existing primitive area and 4,471 contiguous acres.

4/ Includes the existing primitive area only.

5/ Includes the existing primitive area and 9,660 contiguous acres.

6/ These totals do not match the totals proposed for designation under each alternative, since there are parcels in the area not allotted to livestock grazing.

Note: The numbers of acres and AUMs included under the total EIS area, primitive area, and proposed action columns approximate the percentages of the allotments that fall within those boundaries. These percentages are estimates, and do not take variables such as animal preference or different conditions within a pasture into account. However, they can be used as general guidelines.

metals industry by the turn of the century further stimulated agricultural activity. By 1920 cattle raising, rustling, and related pursuits had become more profitable and more extensively practiced than mining in the area.

Modern use and occupation in the area resemble those characteristics found in the latter stages of development. The addition of a tourist industry in recent times has occurred in the Powderhorn area.

The Powderhorn Primitive Area has not been surveyed for historic sites; therefore, no sites have been inventoried or located. Numerous historic mining, ranching, and transportation sites are to be found in the vicinity of the area such as the Lake City Historic District, the Barlow and Sanderson Stage Line Route, and the site of Alfred Pecker's companions' graves which is also the scene of the murder and cannibalism of the victims. Four log cabins are known to exist in the Primitive Area, but they have not yet been recorded or evaluated for their historic significance or integrity. The Primitive Area also contains the highest patented homestead in the United States.

Cannibal Plateau, which is named in commemoration of Pecker's deed, is partially within the area. However, the plateau has no historic value except for its name.

National Register Considerations

Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Office of the State Archeologist, and the annual listings of the National Register of Historic Places indicated no known archeological or historic properties located in the Powderhorn area.

Visual Resources

This EIS area is located in Gunnison and Hinsdale counties, Colorado, 10 miles north-

east of Lake City. Most of the area is bounded by other BLM administered lands or national forest systems lands. A small part of the area is bordered by private land. The elevation of the area ranges from about 8,800 feet in the northeastern portion to a high point of 12,644 feet in the south central area. The entire site is located in the physiographic region known as the Southern Rocky Mountains.

The general character of the primitive area and contiguous lands is very diverse, with undulating topography. Sheer rock canyons, various communities of plant materials, standing and flowing water and outstanding adjacent scenery exist in the area. The existing 38,840 acres of primitive area status has landscape characteristics reflective of its present VRM Class I classification. All lands contiguous to the primitive area that were found to be suitable for wilderness designation are similar in character, but reflect a greater number of man's impacts. They consist mostly of VRM Class II areas with some Class IV (as a result of logging activities outside the contiguous areas).

At the higher elevations to the southwest the forms of two large plateaus dominate the area; Calf Creek to the east and Cannibal to the west. The drainages of these two great landforms engulf the EIS area, especially to the east where the three Powderhorn canyons extend themselves north toward the community of Powderhorn (West, Middle, and East Forks). Drainages to the south (Trout and Indian creeks) and west (Fourth of July and Devils creeks) are not emphasized as much due to either their location, lack of water features, access, or length of miles within the Powderhorn area. Another dominant landform running north-south in the southeast corner of the area is Fish Canyon Ridge. One portion of the Powderhorn area that is visible from outside its boundaries parallels the dirt road along Cebolla Canyon. Fish Canyon Ridge, however, offers an excellent screen for the inner

portions of the area. All viewsheds are dominated by the natural environment, and very few human influences are noticeable.

Landform/Water

Landform diversity ranges from narrow steep-sloping stream bottoms to broad, gently rolling side hills. Massive and precipitous rock slides and outcrops give way to expansive, slightly bowl-shaped high mountain valleys. The landscape is very defined; the lines delineate exposed rock outcrops and sky-lined plateaus, ridges and peaks. Colors in the landform are predominately buff to gray to darker browns, and textures are from moderately smooth to coarse. Water is present in varying degrees. Small springs and streams leading to larger drainages are frequent. In the dominant drainages beaver activity can be observed in the aspen cleared areas of the valley bottom and side hills. The numerous ponds thus created give the viewer diversion and relief from the usual stream-side landscape. The Middle Fork of Powderhorn Creek is a good example of this. Several bodies of water appear at the higher elevations; Powderhorn, Devils, and Hidden lakes.

Vegetation

Vegetation in the area consists of the riparian species of willows, grasses and various trees; the intermittent sagebrush/grass parks; the lower ponderosa pine forests; the pioneer aspen stands; the higher spruce/fir forests; and the tundra zone above tree line. (For a more detailed description, see Vegetation).

With the variety of landscape character types and the many contrasting elements (form, line, color and texture) within each landscape environment, the viewer is exposed to a number of different and often unique environmental settings.

Structures

The presence of man-made structures is a major factor in determining the wilderness potential of all lands. The imprint of man's work must be substantially unnoticeable. The only noticeable structures in the Powderhorn area are four cabins, a windmill, and several ways. The structure and location of the cabins do not attract attention in their natural environment and contribute to the wilderness values. The naming of Phelps Cabin Creek indicates the historical importance attached to one of these structures.

Lands contiguous with the primitive area have such man-made features as reservoirs, fences, developed springs, check dams, and ways. The wilderness inventory done in the summer of 1978 suggests that these cultural modifications have potential for rehabilitation. At the present these modifications add little to the existing natural environment. The Indian Creek timber management site is a visual intrusion adjacent the primitive area. Although this site is located outside the realm of wilderness consideration, it is heavily used as one of the major trailhead access points.

Visual Resource Management Classes

Visual Resource Management (VRM) classes suggest the overall quality of an area and its management. They describe the degree of alteration that idealistically could be allowed within a characteristic landscape. The VRM classes are therefore management objectives setting forth limits of allowable visual impact. Categories range from Class I through Class V. Class I, being the most restrictive, provides primarily for natural ecological changes. Each remaining class in succession allows greater degrees of visual intrusions impacting the natural environment. All areas carrying special designations, such as Area of Critical Environmental Concern and Wilderness,

are classified as VRM Class I. This classification is determined by considering; (1) the visual aspect of the environment, (2) man's impacts, and (3) the need for a more protective management policy. For VRM Class Objectives see Table 3-5. Refer to Map 6 for VRM class boundaries as they relate to the different alternatives.

Forestry Resources

Description

The timber in the primitive area and contiguous areas grows at elevations of 8,200 to 12,000 feet. The timber types vary primarily with elevation.

Ponderosa pine predominates between 8,200 feet and 9,500 feet. These stands are on dry, marginal timber sites. The ponderosa stands are understocked and unevenaged. The total volume of ponderosa pine in the Primitive Area and contiguous areas is about 12 million board feet (MMBF).

Douglas fir grows at elevations of 8,300 and 10,500 feet. Most of these stands are on fairly steep, rocky slopes with shallow soil. Approximately 42 MMBF of Douglas fir timber are on the EIS area, in large dense stands, on north slopes, and small, more open stands on south aspects.

Small stands of lodgepole pine occur between 9,800 feet and 10,500 feet. These stands are on gentle slopes in the Indian Creek area. These lodgepole pine stands are found on the interface between the Douglas-fir and spruce-fir types. The EIS area contains only about 0.2 MMBF of lodgepole pine.

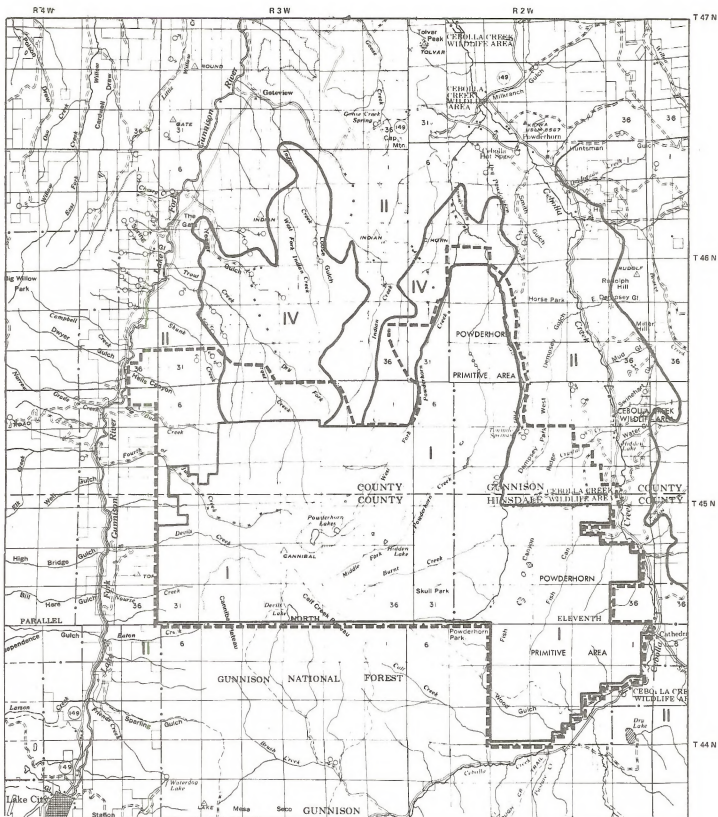
Extensive stands of Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir occur between 10,000 feet and 12,000 feet. Total volume is approximately 71 MMBF for the EIS area. Much of this type is in very dense stands on steep slopes. Many of the spruce-fir stands are on north and east aspects. Above 11,000 feet on the broad ridge flats, the spruce-fir type has evolved into nearly pure spruce. Stands of nonproductive Krumholtz Engelmann spruce occur at the upper elevation extremes.

The aspen type occurs between 9,000 feet and 11,000 feet. Aspen is found on a wide variety of topographic conditions. Small aspen stands are intermixed with all of the other timber types in this area. Extensive aspen stands (2,000+ acres) are in Fish Canyon, along Middle Fork Powderhorn Creek, and in the southeast corner of the unit above Cebolla Creek. Evidence indicates that many of the aspen stands grew up after past fires. Most of the aspen stands have an understory. This type contains about 50 MMBF of timber.

A few scattered patches of bristlecone pine occur in the southeast corner of the existing primitive area, at approximately 9,500 feet elevation. See Table 3-6 for timber type acreages.

Past Harvesting History

There has been no significant timber cutting in the Powderhorn Primitive Area. Approximately 10 acres of one of the old cutting units in the Indian Creek drainage is within the existing Primitive Area boundaries (Gunnison Basin URA 1978). As for the contiguous lands with wilderness characteristics, there have been no recorded timber sales. In the past, however, there have been light cuttings in these contiguous lands for fuelwood, house timbers, and posts and poles.



----- Primitive Area and 9,660 Contiguous Acres (Wilderness Study Area) 0 1 2 3 4 5 miles



Map 6 VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLASSES

TABLE 3-5
VRM CLASSIFICATIONS BY ALTERNATIVE

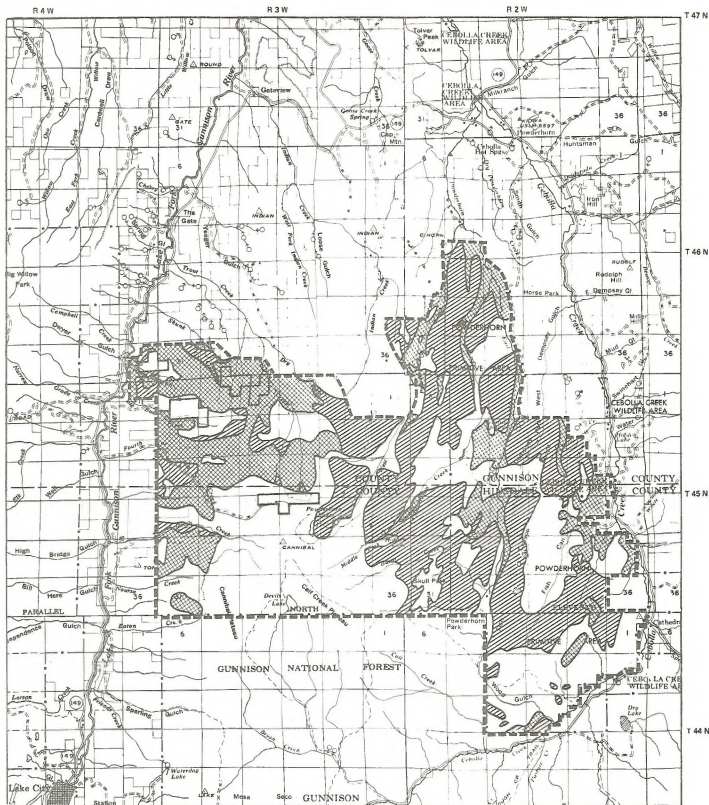
Alternative	Class I	Class II	Class IV	Total Acres Affected	Ultimate VRM Class After Action
1.	40,480	4,471	--	44,951	I
2.	40,480	--	--	40,480	I
3.	40,480	5,960	3,700	50,140	I
4.	40,480	--	--	40,480	II

1. Designation of Powderhorn Primitive Area and 4,471 Contiguous Acres (Proposed Action)
2. Designation of Powderhorn Primitive Area and No Action
3. Designation of Powderhorn Primitive Area and 9,660 Contiguous Acres
4. Use Alternative

TABLE 3-6
TIMBER TYPE ACREAGES

Timber Type	Total Acreage			Less Than or Equal to 35% Slope			Greater Than 35% Slope		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Aspen	9,000	10,060	7,980	3,720	4,150	3,460	5,280	5,910	4,520
Douglas-fir	5,580	8,340	3,660	2,730	4,700	1,860	2,850	3,640	1,800
Lodgepole pine	None	30	None	None	0	None	None	30	None
Spruce-fir	13,320	14,170	13,180	3,830	4,260	3,760	9,490	9,910	9,420
Ponderosa pine	2,220	2,420	2,060	770	890	610	1,450	1,530	1,450
Total (All Species)	30,120	35,020	26,880	11,050	14,000	9,690	19,070	21,020	17,190
Total (Commercial Species)	21,120	24,960	18,900	7,330	9,850	6,230	13,790	15,110	12,670

1. Existing Primitive Area plus 4,471 contiguous acres
2. Primitive area plus 9,660 acres of contiguous lands
3. Existing Primitive Area



----- Primitive Area and 9,660 Contiguous Acres (Wilderness Study Area) 0 1 2 3 4 5 miles

-  Commercial Timber Species on < 35% Slope
-  Commercial Timber Species on \geq 35% Slope

Map 7 TIMBER RESOURCES

Since 1973, the Powderhorn Primitive Area has been managed in accordance with the terms of the Wilderness Act of 1964, which prohibits timber harvesting or related activities.

Protection

Insects. While an insect problem in the existing Primitive Area and the contiguous area is not major at present, a potential for significant problems exists. There is a light, but visible, endemic mountain pine beetle infestation in the ponderosa pine type with the northern portion of the existing primitive area showing the most damage. The Douglas fir timber type has a light, spruce budworm problem. There is no known spruce beetle infestation, but much of the spruce timber on the high ridge flats has a fairly high susceptibility.

Fire. Fire has had a significant role in the development of the present vegetation in the primitive area. Approximately 925 acres of forest land are understocked or nonstocked as a result of fires. This acreage is regenerating very slowly. Much of the aspen acreage is the result of fires. The burned areas, on which aspen established, are restocking in spruce and fir much faster than the areas without aspen (Gunnison Basin URA 1978).

Timber-Volume

The existing Powderhorn Primitive Area and the contiguous lands with wilderness characteristics contain approximately 170 MMBF of timber. This volume includes the spruce-fir, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, and aspen timber types. This timber is divided into areas (less than 35 percent slope) and areas where steep slopes (equal to or greater than 35 percent) impose limitations on timber harvest.

The 9,850 total acres of 35 or greater percent slopes would not be considered harvestable for present management purposes.

As more advancement in harvest operation techniques develops in Colorado, more of these acres may be economically and environmentally feasible to harvest. For practical purposes, only the areas less than 35 percent slope will be dealt with here. Therefore, the following timber volumes will only refer to those 15,110 acres of timberland that at the present are feasible to harvest and of commercial species (see Map 7 for commercial species by slope class).

An average volume figure of 5,000 board feet per acre was obtained from the field plot data from the 1972 Extensive Forest Inventory. This figure was used as a basis for further volume calculations.

A total of approximately 125 MMBF of timber is present on the 35,020 acres of timberland in the primitive area plus the contiguous areas. This compares with 295 MMBF of timber species on the remaining 109,660 total forest acres of the Gunnison Basin Planning Area. Of the 125 MMBF, only 76 MMBF are potentially available for harvest due to present slope restrictions. This would be about 1.0 MMBF per year on a sustain yield basis, considering a 120 year rotation. By comparison, the potential harvest from the Gunnison National Forest is 17.9 MMBF per year.

The Gunnison Basin Planning Area (excluding the primitive area) contains 82,030 acres of productive and 16,340 acres of nonproductive forest lands. The existing primitive area contains 24,470 acres of productive and 1,710 acres of nonproductive forest land.

Recreation

The EIS area with its expanses of alpine tundra plateaus and densely forested drainages

and ridges, provides an excellent setting for a variety of recreation activities. The majority of users enter the area from the north at the Indian Creek or Ten-Mile Springs trail heads where trail head registration stations, horse unloading ramps, and parking areas are provided (see Map 1). Access on the east and west is possible by trails which cross private land, but permission must be acquired from the landowner. The area is abutted on the south by a roadless portion of the Gunnison National Forest (RARE II Area No. 218, 31,990 acres) which has been proposed for further wilderness study by the Forest Service. Non-motorized access is facilitated by four trails which traverse this area.

The trail head self-registration stations at Indian Creek and Ten-Mile Springs access points recorded 375 visitors during the 1978 use season (June-October). The accuracy of data from this type of station was checked elsewhere and found to be anywhere from 35 to 72 percent lower than actual visitation (Lucas 1975). The Powderhorn Primitive Area is patrolled during the summer season by a back-country ranger who observed that use levels were higher than registration indicated in 1979; however, the degree of difference was not quantifiable (personal commun., B. Pruitt 1979).

Due to these factors it was decided that actual use levels were higher than registration indicated, and that (based on a consensus by District recreation personnel), an additional 35 percent would be representative of actual visitation. This would bring visitor use in the Primitive Area to 506 visitors in 1978. The average length of stay in the Primitive Area, as indicated by the 1978 registrations, was 2.5 days. This figure multiplied by the adjusted visitor figure projects use of the area to 1,265 visitor days in 1978 (1 visitor day = use for all or part of a day).

The trail head registers have not been in place for a long enough period to accurately project the future rate of use in the area; however, Forest Service statistics indicate about an 8 percent annual growth rate nationally since 1969 for this type recreation use (Stankey, Baden 1977). Similar growth rates have also been indicated in other publications (Stankey, Lucas, Lime 1976; Stankey 1971). Using this figure the amount of use under the existing situation would amount to 862 visitors (2,155 visitor days) in the short term (1985) and 1,855 visitors (4,637 visitor days) in the long term (1995). These figures would be subject to adjustment due to such changing factors as travel costs (i.e., as gasoline prices rise, nonlocal use may decrease) and social carrying capacity (i.e., as use increases, visitors seeking solitude may choose other areas).

Residents of Colorado account for about 67 percent of the trips into the area. The majority of out-of-state usage originated in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas.

The trail head registration information indicated that the majority of users listed fishing and hiking as the primary activities during their visit. Activities such as hunting, nature study, and photography were also listed, but at a much lower frequency. Hunting in the Powderhorn Primitive Area may be somewhat underrepresented on the register since most of the hunting seasons occur after the summer patrol season and the registers are not maintained regularly. Additionally, much of the hunting use enters from the east where registers are not located.

Observations by Colorado Division of Wildlife personnel indicate that about 200 people hunted big game in or adjacent to the Primitive Area during the 1979 seasons with about half the use going in with outfitters (personal commun., P. Mason 1979).

Conversations with outfitters and other individuals who hunted the area tend to substantiate this figure (personal commun., R. Wood, L. McGraw, E. Wiseman, B. McDonald, H. Clark, R. Holman, C. Finch 1979).

Facilities within the Primitive Area are limited to directional signs and about 40 miles of trails which connect most focal points in the area. The 4 mile trail from Indian Creek trail head to the Powderhorn Lakes receives the heaviest use as this provides a day hike into fishing in a scenic location. Much of the camping use also occurs at Powderhorn Lakes with multiple fire rings and scarcity of firewood becoming evident.

Fishing in the Primitive Area occurs at Upper and Lower Powderhorn Lakes, Hidden Lake, and Devils Lake with cutthroat and brook trout stocked by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The beaver ponds along the forks of Powderhorn Creek also provide fishing for brook trout with the East Fork being the most accessible and receiving the most use.

Hunting occurs in the area for elk, deer, bear, and ptarmigan. The elk herd accounts for most of the hunting use with Fish Canyon Ridge and the Powderhorn Park receiving substantial use. The other game species present are hunted, but at much lower levels of use. The dense timber and rugged terrain tend to limit hunting in portions of the area.

The lands adjacent to the Primitive Area which are being considered under the various alternatives are not used substantially for recreation purposes. The lack of trails and surrounding private land limit access to these portions with the exception of the Dempsey Park area on the north end of Fish Canyon Ridge. This portion is used during the hunting season as a take-off point for elk hunting in the Primitive Area. These routes are also occasionally used for pack trips into the Primitive Area from guest resorts along Cebolla Creek.

Private lands adjacent to the Primitive Area along the Lake Fork of the Gunnison and Cebolla Creek are used for ranching and increasingly for recreational resorts. These resorts use this area and other public lands to provide the land base needed for activities such as hiking, hunting or horseback riding.

Wilderness Values

The Powderhorn (38,840 acres) was designated in August of 1973, as a Primitive Area due to its undeveloped nature and outstanding recreation potential. Since this time it has been managed consistent with the BLM Primitive Area Management Policy (BLM 6221,06) and the Wilderness Act of 1964. Upon its passage in 1976, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (Section 6031e) required that all BLM administered lands formally identified as natural or primitive be reviewed as to their wilderness suitability in accordance with Section 3(d) of the Wilderness Act of 1964. This review was completed during the summer of 1978 for the Powderhorn Primitive Area and contiguous lands. The BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook and the Draft Procedures for Wilderness Review of Previously Designated Primitive and Natural Areas provided guidance for this review. The Primitive Area and 9,660 contiguous acres (see Map 1) for a total of 48,500 acres were determined to meet the criteria:

1. Size. At least 5,000 contiguous roadless acres of public land is of sufficient size as to make practicably its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.
2. Naturalness. Generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.
3. Solitude/Primitive Recreation. Offers outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

4. Supplemental Values. May also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

A summary of the findings are presented here:

Size/Ownership. This unit includes the Powderhorn Primitive Area which is an Instant Study Area (ISA) and contiguous public lands (75,440 acres total) which were inventoried in the summer of 1978. During this inventory 9,920 acres of public lands were determined to lack naturalness because of the presence of timber harvests, mineral exploration pits, and contour furrowing. The deletion of the unnatural section and adjacent private land left the northern portion of the unit with a very irregular boundary of four finger-like extensions often less than a mile in width. The confining nature of the boundary and short cone to perimeter distances within the fingers were judged to prevent outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, causing an additional 17,020 acres to be deleted from the area. With these boundary adjustments, 48,500 acres of public land remained for wilderness review. Contiguous to the unit on the south is the FS Forest Service RARE II Area No. 218 (31,990 acres) which is being further studied for wilderness potential. The unit is surrounded by a mixture of public, private, state, and national forest systems lands.

Naturalness. The Powderhorn area is characterized by relatively level alpine plateaus giving way to steep sided canyons. The elevations range from 12,644 feet on Calf Creek Plateau at the south end to about 8,600 feet along Powderhorn Creek at the north end. Vegetation generally follows the elevations with alpine tundra, spruce-fir forests, ponderosa pine parks, and sagebrush-grassland being present. The Imprints of man within the unit are generally widely scattered and have a limited impact due to vegetation and topographic screening. The Imprints include four

old log cabins in varying stages of deterioration, about 12 miles of ways which are revegetating, a small windmill, a 10 acre timber cut, and range projects such as fences and stock ponds. The Imprints within the unit were determined to be substantially unnoticeable with the area primarily affected by the forces of nature.

Opportunities for Solitude. The large size of the area (48,500 acres) with its rugged terrain, caused by steep sided drainages radiating outward from Calf Creek Plateau, provides numerous locations where opportunities for solitude would be present. The dense stands of spruce, fir, and aspen found along these drainages further enhance opportunities for solitude by dividing the area into smaller secluded viewsheds. The higher elevations on Calf Creek and Cannibal plateaus offer sweeping vistas of the surrounding mountainous landscape, projecting a feeling of vastness which enhances solitude. Due to these factors outstanding opportunities for solitude are present in the area.

Opportunities for Primitive and Unconfined Recreation. The blocklike configuration and substantial acreage allow for the unconfined movement of recreationists, particularly over the alpine tundra portions of the area. These areas provide excellent locations for hiking or horseback riding during the summer and cross-country skiing/snow shoeing during the winter. Lakes in the area and the forks of Powderhorn Creek provide fishing opportunities as well as scenic locations for camping. The varied wildlife of the area, including beaver, ptarmigan, and elk, provide ample viewing and hunting possibilities. These factors contribute to and provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Supplemental Values. In addition to the wilderness characteristics summarized above the Powderhorn area includes some outstanding and unique supplemental values which add to the wilderness resource:

1. Ecologically, the Powderhorn area encompasses one of the largest and least disturbed, relatively flat alpine tundra areas in the contiguous United States. This ecosystem includes the northern parts of Cannonball and Calf Creek Plateaus.

2. Geologically, the area consists of Tertiary volcanic deposits, both lava flow and ash flow tuff, in some areas believed to be five thousand feet thick. Alpine glaciation changed the feature of the landscape by creating cirque basins, glacial tarns, morainal deposits and lakes, U-shaped valleys and rock glaciers.

3. Scientific and educational values exist with opportunities to study and analyze alpine and subalpine ecosystems, and glacial and igneous geology and geomorphology. The Powderhorn area includes a large elk breeding ground and peripheral usage by Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. In the alpine tundra are found ptarmigan as well as a large variety of alpine plant types such as moss campion (Silene acaulis), alpine forget-me-not (Eritrichium elongatum), and Jacobs ladder (Polemonium pulcherrimum).

4. Scenic values are very high due to a combination of diverse vegetation types and topographic landforms which are relatively unique within the region. Man-made features are lacking or are harmonious with the natural landscape. The Powderhorn offers outstanding views of the San Juan Mountains. These adjacent lands, managed largely by the Forest Service, include several wilderness or proposed wilderness areas.

5. Historically, the Powderhorn area was utilized by the Ute Indians as a summer hunting ground, as were the San Juan Mountains. The Powderhorn is believed to be the general area of the Infamous Alferd E. Packer's cannibalistic "feast" of five men in the winter of 1874. Some old cabins or remnants are

found within the Powderhorn and, although they enhance the appeal of the wilderness resource, their historical value is undetermined at this time.

Economics

Economic use of the Powderhorn area has been very limited. The remoteness of the EIS area from centers of population has placed very little demand upon the area's resources. In the past, livestock grazing and recreation have been the most important uses of the area. Livestock use of the area is proposed to be managed in accordance with the Gunnison Basin Management Framework Plan and would not change under any alternative being considered. Recreation use of the area, in 1978, had a total value of \$23,460 and a value per visitor day of \$18.47. Appendix SE-1 shows how these values were derived. No timber has been harvested in the proposed wilderness area other than the previously discussed 10 acre tract. However, the area does have developable timber resources. The Forestry section shows that a sustained yield of 0.9 MMBF per year could be produced in the present primitive area. At \$40 per MBF, this timber would have a stumpage value of \$36,000 annually (1979 dollars). Areas contiguous to the existing primitive area could produce 0.1 MMBF per year with a value of \$4,000.

As noted in the Geology and Minerals section, preliminary reports indicate no minerals in economic concentrations in the EIS area, other than possibly certain industrial minerals, for which no data are available.

Social Attitudes

Locally there is sentiment both in favor of and opposed to additional wilderness areas. Through the public participation process BLM has received a great deal of comment on both

sides of the issue. There is a very vocal group that opposes further wilderness designation and view it as a threat to the economic stability of the local communities. This group feels that since a great percentage of the land in Gunnison and Hinsdale counties is administered by the federal government, further wilderness designations would weaken the area's economic base by taking the land out of some forms of production. There are also local groups who see wilderness designation as necessary to preserve areas in a natural state for their scenic and scientific values.

CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IMPACT ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

Assumptions

This chapter analyzes the environmental consequences that would be caused by implementation of the proposed action or one of the alternatives. In order to provide a standard framework for impact analysis and comparison among alternatives, the following assumptions were made.

1. The short term is considered to be between submission of the wilderness report to Congress (1982) and 1985, the period during which Congress is expected to act on the proposal. The long term was set at 1995, since the environmental trends of whatever course of action is chosen would appear by that time.

2. BLM will have the funding and workforce to implement the course of action chosen.

3. Livestock grazing use on allotments within the Primitive Area and contiguous lands will be determined through the Gunnison Basin Livestock Grazing EIS (which includes the Primitive Area). None of the proposed wilderness alternatives would affect the stocking levels within the Primitive Area or the contiguous lands.

4. If the Primitive Area (and alternative tracts of contiguous lands) is designated wilderness, it would be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and the BLM Wilderness Management Policy (Sept., 1981).

Energy Requirements and Conservation Potential

Implementation of any alternative would require motor vehicle fuel for administration of the area. However, the amount would be the same under any alternative selected, and no conservation potentials are evident.

Format

Impacts in this chapter are discussed by resource element under each alternative.

Non-Affected Resources

Climate, air quality, geology, and topography of the EIS area would not be impacted by any of the alternatives. Therefore they will not be discussed in any impact section. Visual resources would be affected only by the proposed use and development alternative.

DESIGNATION OF POWDERHORN PRIMITIVE AREA AND 4,471 CONTIGUOUS ACRES - ALTERNATIVE 1 (preferred alternative)

Minerals

The Powderhorn Primitive Area is presently affected by a protective withdrawal which precludes prospecting and mining but permits mineral leasing if wilderness values are not impaired. The 4,471 acres of contiguous lands are presently open to appropriation under the mining laws and to leasing under the mineral leasing laws.

Designation as a Wilderness Area could allow mineral entry under the mining law and leasing under the mineral leasing laws, until midnight, December 31, 1983, subject to the provisions of the Wilderness Act. After that date, the area now known as the Powderhorn Primitive Area plus the 4,471 acres of contiguous lands if designated as wilderness would be withdrawn from all forms of entry under the mining law and from leasing under the mineral leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights.

Soils

Short- and long-term erosion would remain essentially unchanged under this alternative. The projected increased recreational use, especially near Powderhorn Lakes or other desirable locations could result in increased erosion and soil compaction, depending upon the degree of usage and soil or other site characteristics. The soils around Powderhorn Lakes have moderate to severe limitations for camping due to steep slopes, stoniness, and slow water percolation. If additional trails are built they could increase soil erosion depending upon their design and location.

On the contiguous lands, the elimination of vehicular use on the two ways in the Dempsey Park area would reduce erosion there. Attempts to rehabilitate these ways, might increase short-term erosion. However, long-term erosion would be decreased by creating water-bars across steep, eroding grades on these ways. Such erosion creating activities as road building and logging would be restricted on the contiguous acreage.

Water Resources

With an anticipated increase in the short- and long-term use of campsites, primarily around the Powderhorn Lakes, the hydrologic

condition of these areas is expected to degrade. The increase in recreational use could compact soils in heavy use areas, slightly increasing surface runoff and soil loss. As a result, tree roots could become exposed, reducing the trees' vigor and the amount of overstory vegetation, which would be compounded by the collection of firewood. By slightly decreasing the amount of vegetation cover and slightly increasing the amount of surface runoff, a small increase in sediment production would be expected.

The increase in recreation activities around or in close proximity to surface water would result in increased fecal pollutants. Verness et al. (1978) found that recreational activities in an area with no sanitary facilities resulted in an increase of fecal bacteria indicator densities. The study suggested that potential health hazards exist in the watershed during periods of human use.

To some extent, these impacts would occur whether or not the area was designated wilderness. The difference would be in degree of use with designation, which would be reflected in the degree of impact.

Vegetation

The vegetation impacts under this alternative would be slight. A very slight increase in trampling of vegetation by visitors to the area may occur, primarily around existing trails and at campsites at Powderhorn, Hidden, and Devils lakes.

Terrestrial Wildlife

With implementation of this alternative, there would be no significant impacts in the short term on terrestrial wildlife species. However, in the long term, there could be some unquantifiable impacts on wildlife if visitor

use increases as expected. Some animal populations could decline (primarily big game such as elk) as a result of potential increases in noise and decreases in space, both due to the possible increases in visitors and visitor days.

Aquatic Wildlife

It is estimated that under the recommended alternative, there would be 6.0 miles of aquatic/riparian habitat added to the proposed wilderness area. (Table 4-1). These additional miles would include a small portion of the West Fork Powderhorn Creek, parts of Fourth of July Creek, Dempsey Gulch, and Crystal Creek. It is anticipated that the number of miles in good to excellent condition would remain the same under this alternative. There would be an additional 0.7 mile of stream habitat in the fair category.

Under this alternative no adverse impacts are anticipated to accrue to the DOW fish stocking program.

The BLM recognizes this as being consistent with the Policy and Guidelines for fish and wildlife management in wilderness and primitive areas. (1976) Any potential changes in stocking programs will be considered only as a cooperative effort by the administering agency and the state agency and would be addressed in a management plan which would be developed for the area.

Livestock Grazing

As noted on Table 3-4, this alternative would affect approximately 37,170 acres administered for livestock grazing and 2,002 AUMs. Allotments or portions of allotments within the existing primitive area would not

be affected. However, a 3,120 acre portion of the Powderhorn AMP allotment that is outside the existing primitive area but included under this alternative would be restricted from motorized equipment and vehicles. This could increase the time and man power required to maintain two springs on a 5 to 10 year schedule in the Powderhorn AMP Allotment.

Cultural Resources

This alternative would have both beneficial and adverse impacts on cultural resources in the area. The cultural values in the area designated would be protected by their isolation from surface disturbing activities and thereby left in a pristine condition. These rare high altitude sites would also be available for future study and evaluation.

While most impacts would be beneficial there may be some adverse impacts associated with designation. Concentrations of hikers and campers on trails and in camping areas have a greater probability of causing damage to the resource and vandalism may occur. Vandalism is probably the most detrimental of the adverse impacts, causing destruction and loss of information which may be valuable in reconstructing and understanding past land-use activities. Cultural resources are a finite nonrenewable resource that once disturbed cannot be replaced.

Although some loss is likely, the majority of cultural values would be protected by their isolation. Inventory and assessment of the cultural values would be a gain to scientific knowledge and the long-term isolation and protection of the sites from surface disturbing activity would be a benefit. Future researchers and recreationists would be able to see and/or study these undisturbed values.

TABLE 4-1
PORTIONS (Miles) OF MAJOR DRAINAGES INCLUDED IN THE EIS AREA 1/

Stream Name	Approximate Number of Miles Included in each Alternative				
	Existing	I	II	III	IV
East Fork Powderhorn	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.6
Mid Fork Powderhorn	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2
West Fork Powderhorn	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1
Phelps Cabin Creek	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Burnt Creek	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Fish Canyon	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
Wood Gulch	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
Devils Creek	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Fourth of July Creek	3.8	4.5	4.5	4.5	3.8
Trout Creek	1.9	1.9	1.9	3.9	1.9
Big Buck Creek	NA <u>2/</u>	0.4	NA	2.8	NA
Hells Canyon	NA	NA	NA	1.5	NA
Skunk Creek	NA	NA	NA	1.5	NA
Indian Creek	NA	NA	NA	0.3	NA
Crystal Creek	NA	1.4	NA	1.4	NA
West Dempsey Gulch	NA	3.8	NA	1.8	NA
Total	51.8	57.8	52.5	63.2	51.5

1/ Mileage based on USGS quad maps.

2/ NA = Not affected.

3/ This alternative is the same as the present situation.

I Designation of Powderhorn Primitive Area and 4,471 Contiguous Acres - Study Phase Decision.

II Designation of Powderhorn Primitive Area.

III Designation of Powderhorn Primitive Area and 9,660 Contiguous Acres - All lands with wilderness character.

IV Use Alternative

Forestry Resources

There would be several forestry-related impacts if the Powderhorn Primitive Area and 4,471 acres of the contiguous lands with wilderness character were designated as a wilderness area. First is the consideration of the actual and potential amount of timber that would be removed from the timber base of the Gunnison Basin Resource Area. The Primitive Area is already being managed under the Wilderness Management Guidelines, but the wilderness designation would implement restrictive management on an additional 4,471 acres. This would mean that 6 MMBF timber would be withdrawn (see Table 4-2), and all the future growth would also be withdrawn which is estimated to be 50 MBF per year. There would be timber losses due to insect-damaged and diseased trees, normal mortality, blowdown of decadent trees, and wildfire. The dead and dying trees could not be salvaged for timber products (posts and poles, firewood, lumber) under the wilderness designation.

On a regional basis, the withdrawal of this amount of timber would not affect the supply of timber, since it is very small (0.05 MMBF per year possible versus 17.92 MMBF per year possible from other sources in the local market area). Also, this timber lies in rugged terrain and would require extensive road building for harvest.

Proper management to improve and increase reproduction is restricted under wilderness designation. The ponderosa pine stands are currently understocked, and there is little natural reproduction establishing under these stands. Many of the spruce-fir and pure spruce stands are overstocked, and growth is slow with many stands being at a point of stagnation. In such a case, stand condition will deteriorate and reach a point of negative growth.

Recreation

The designation as wilderness of the Powderhorn Primitive Area and 4,471 acres of contiguous lands could increase visitor use of the area. The increased exposure the area would receive due to public comment and news media coverage during the decision making process, as well as through outdoor recreation magazines and wilderness guide books, could cause some additional visitation. While little information is available on the degree of use change, it is believed that an additional 10 percent use for the short term period and for the first years as wilderness would represent the upper limits of increased use. After this period, use would continue to increase at a projected rate of 8 percent per year. The rate of increase for the short term (1985) would result in an additional 484 visitors while in long term (1995) there would be an additional 1,044 visitors. Assuming that the length of stay would remain constant with the 1978 average the area would receive an increase of 1,210 visitor days in 1985 and 2,610 visitor days in 1995. These figures would be affected by such factors as travel costs and the area's social carrying capacity (Chapter 3).

This increase in use of the area may have an effect on uses in the long and short term. Focal points such as the lakes could become crowded causing some users to move to another location or forego trips into the area.

The quality of hunting and fishing in the area over the short and long term would depend to a great extent on management actions taken by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW). The number of permits issued for this Game Management Unit could be adjusted to maintain recreation days or game populations. Fish populations in the lakes are now maintained through stocking programs. The DOW could

TABLE 4-2

VOLUME AND ACREAGE OF COMMERCIAL SPECIES

	Volume 1/ (million board feet)					Acreage	
	Total	GT=35% Slope	LT35% Slope	ASY 2/ LT35%	Total	GT=35% Slope	LT35% Slope
Existing Primitive Area	95	31	64	0.90	18,900	6,230	12,670
Dempsey Park, Powderhorn Creeks confluence, and Fourth of July Creek (4,471 acre contiguous area)	11	5	6	0.05	2,220	1,100	1,120
Ten Mile Road, Indian Creek Ridge, and Skunk Creek- Hell Canyon (additional 5,189 acre contiguous area)	19	13	6	0.05	3,840	2,520	1,320
Total	125	49	76	1.00	24,960	9,850	15,110

1/ Data derived from the 1972 Extensive Forest Inventory.

2/ ASY: Annual Sustained Yield.

LT Less than.

GT= Greater than or equal to.

Increase stocking to provide for the additional fishing pressure and maintain fishing quality.

Off-road vehicles, snowmobiles, and 4-wheel drive activities would not be permitted on the 4,471 acres adjacent to the Primitive Area. This should not have substantial impact since there is a large amount of land available for these activities in the region. The Primitive Area has been closed to motorized traffic since its designation so no additional impacts would occur on this portion.

Wilderness Values

The designation as wilderness would have a short and long-term beneficial impact on the wilderness values present in the area by providing additional protection. The Primitive Area is now protected from man-caused impairments by an administrative designation. Designation as wilderness is decided only by Congress. This protection would also be extended to the 4,471 acres of adjacent land proposed under this alternative, thus retaining the wilderness values present.

The 5,189 acres of public land which were determined to contain wilderness values but not considered for designation under this alternative would be managed for other multiple uses. Dependent on what activities would occur, the wilderness values could be lost on all or a portion of these lands.

Economic Impacts

Under this alternative recreation use of the Powderhorn Area would increase to 3,365 visitor days annually in the short term with a annual value of \$62,150, to the local economy; this would be an increase of 1,210 visitor days and \$22,350 above use of the area without

wilderness designation. In the long term, use of the area would be greater by 2,610 visitor days. Value of this greater use would be \$48,210 to the local economy.

Under this alternative society would forego an additional 0.05 MMBF of timber. The annual value of this production at \$40 per MBF would be \$2,000.

Social Attitudes

Acquisition of private lands inside the proposed boundaries of the wilderness area may enhance successful management of the area as wilderness. Removal of land from private ownership is opposed by many local citizens, especially those of Hinsdale County where over 10 percent of the private land has been purchased and removed from the tax rolls since 1957. Losses in annual tax revenue that would result from such a land transfer would amount to \$35 in Hinsdale County and \$4 in Gunnison County, an insignificant portion of the counties' total property tax revenues. Local residents would view this step, however, as a step in eroding away their limited tax base by federal and state governments.

Adverse Impacts

Should the proposed action be implemented, some resources would be adversely impacted.

For example, the projected increases in visitor use could lead to more trail use and trampling of vegetation in some areas, which would slightly increase erosion. Additional people hiking near lakes and streams could increase the possibilities of fecal pathogens entering the local waters, which could be a health hazard. This increased human activity could disturb wildlife, particularly elk, and eventually lead to population declines of wildlife.

The wilderness designation, and its anticipated increase in visitor use could lead to crowding in parts of the area, which would decrease its values for solitude and wilderness enjoyment.

Those physical use activities restricted by the wilderness designation (timber and mineral production and motorized recreation) would be adversely affected by the loss to their usable resource base. Such losses would apply only to the 4,471 contiguous acres, since the existing Primitive Area is already restricted from such uses.

The time, effort, and costs required to administer livestock grazing allotments and maintain rangeland improvements on the 4,471 contiguous acres could increase as a result of wilderness designation.

Short Term Use vs Long Term Productivity

If the proposed action were implemented, some short- and long-term impacts and resource trade-offs would occur. The use of some resources would be foregone in order to preserve the integrity of others.

In the short term and in the long term, visitor use is projected to increase. This increased use could lead to increases in vegetation trampling, erosion, and health hazards due to fecal pathogens in the water supply. The losses in opportunities for solitude and losses in wildlife populations would be short- and long-term impacts.

The losses (on the 4,471 acres of contiguous lands only) in some resource uses (timber, minerals, ORVs) would be short- and long-term

impacts, as would the increases in foregoing the use of some resources (timber, minerals, ORVs) in order to enhance the use of other resources (wilderness character and primitive recreation and scenic values).

Irreversible/Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

There would be no irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources under this alternative.

DESIGNATION OF POWDERHORN PRIMITIVE AS WILDERNESS AREA--IMPACTS - ALTERNATIVE II

Conditions of most resources within the existing primitive area would not change appreciably with wilderness designation, since the area is presently managed under wilderness guidelines. Impacts on most resources would be slight, and would be due to the projected increases in visitor use as discussed under the proposed action. Since the increases in visitor use under this alternative would be the same as those projected for the proposed action, impacts would also be similar.

On the 9,660 acres of contiguous lands that would not be designated wilderness under this alternative, other multiple use management would continue. This acreage would remain open to such uses as mineral and timber development and ORV use. However, these lands have been open to such uses for a number of years, and have retained their wilderness characteristics. No significant imprints of man have been recorded to date. It is not possible to project future uses.

Adverse Impacts

There would be no adverse impacts on the existing environment of the primitive area. Mineral, forest, and ORV activities could adversely affect the wilderness values of the 9,660 acres of contiguous land; however, the timing and magnitude of these impacts are impossible to predict.

Short Term Use vs Long Term Productivity

In the short term as well as the long term, the conditions and trends in individual resources discussed under the existing environment would continue within the Primitive Area. Mineral, forest, and ORV activities could reduce the wilderness values over the long term within the 9,660 contiguous acres.

Irreversible/Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

There would be no irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources within the primitive area. Within the 9,660 acres of contiguous lands mineral, forest and ORV activities, if they occurred, could eliminate the wilderness values and be an irretrievable commitment of this resource.

USE ALTERNATIVE -- MAXIMUM DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, AND USE OF ALL RESOURCES - ALTERNATIVE III

Under this alternative, all resources within the 48,500 acre area (Primitive Area plus all contiguous areas) would be subject to current multiple-use environmental constraints. Such impacts are not quantifiable at present, but would be evaluated at the time multiple use activities were proposed.

The wilderness values of the area could be lowered if road building, timber and mineral production, ORV use, and other uses occurred. Visitor use would increase but at a lower rate than under the proposed action and the type of visitor use could shift from wilderness, backcountry oriented to ORV and road oriented uses.

Adverse Impacts

Adverse impacts could occur on the area's wilderness values, as well as to its soils, vegetation, water resources, wildlife, visual resources, and cultural resources.

Short Term Use vs Long Term Productivity

If the impacts discussed under this alternative occurred, they would be both short and long term, and would involve trade offs in the lowering of wilderness values for the gains in forest, mineral, and ORV uses.

Irreversible/Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

Should the development and uses discussed under this alternative occur, irreversible trends would be set in place, and the lowering of wilderness values would be irretrievable.

NO ACTION -- ALTERNATIVE IV

This alternative would maintain present management which exists within the primitive area and on the 9,660 contiguous acres. Conditions are not expected to change from the present situation.

Within the Primitive Area, wilderness values would be maintained, and increases in visitor use, beyond the existing rate of increase, are not anticipated. Exploration and development of leasable minerals would be permitted; however, any surface activities would be restricted by management guidelines.

On the 9,660 acres of contiguous lands that would not be designated wilderness under this alternative, multiple use management would continue. This acreage would remain open to such uses as mineral and timber development and ORV use. However, these lands have been open to such uses for a number of years, and have retained their wilderness characteristics. No significant imprints of man have been recorded to date, and projecting potential future uses would be conjectural.

Adverse Impacts

There would be substantial adverse impacts on the existing environment of the Primitive Area. Mineral, forest, and ORV activities could impair the wilderness values of the 9,660 acres of contiguous land; however, the timing and magnitude of these impacts are impossible to predict.

Short Term Use vs Long Term Productivity

In the short term as well as the long term, the conditions and trends in individual resources discussed under the existing environment would continue within the primitive area. Mineral, forest, and ORV activities could reduce the wilderness values over the long term within the 9,660 contiguous acres.

Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources

There would be no irreversible or irrecoverable commitments of resources within the Primitive Area. Within the 9,660 acres of

contiguous lands, mineral, forest and ORV activities, if they occurred, could eliminate the wilderness values and be an irretrievable commitment of wilderness resources.

DESIGNATION OF ALL LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTER -- ALTERNATIVE V

Impacts Similar to the Proposed Action

Under this alternative, impacts to soils, water resources, vegetation, terrestrial wildlife, aquatic wildlife, and cultural resources would be similar to those described under the proposed action. Differences due to the increase in the acreage of land designated as wilderness would be unquantifiable.

Minerals

The Powderhorn Primitive Area is presently under a protective withdrawal which withdraws 38,840 acres from disposition under the mining laws, but not from leasing under the mineral leasing laws. The 9,660 acres of contiguous lands are presently open to appropriation under the mining laws and to leasing under the mineral leasing laws.

Designation as a Wilderness Area could allow mineral entry under the mining law and leasing under the mineral leasing laws, subject to the provisions of the Wilderness Act, until midnight December 31, 1983. After that date, the area now known as the Powderhorn Primitive Area plus the 9,660 acres of contiguous lands would be withdrawn from all forms of entry under the mining law and from leasing under the mineral leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights.

Livestock Grazing

This alternative would involve approximately 40,929 acres administered for livestock

grazing and 2,251 AUMs. Allotments or portions of allotments within the existing primitive area would not be affected. However, use of motorized vehicles or equipment to maintain facilities would be restricted on allotments within the 9,660 contiguous acres. There are six springs in the Yeager Gulch Allotment, 0.75 mile of fence in the Yeager Gulch and Ute Trail allotments, and 0.75 mile of fence in Hells Canyon Allotment that would be affected. The time and man power spent to maintain these facilities could increase.

Forestry Resources

There would be several forestry-related impacts of concern if the Powderhorn Primitive Area and the 9,660 acres of contiguous lands with wilderness character were designated as a wilderness area. First is the consideration of the actual and potential amount of timber that would be permanently removed from the timber base of the Gunnison Basin Resource Area. The primitive area is already being managed under the Wilderness Management Guidelines, but the wilderness designation would add 9,660 acres to this restrictive management classification, thus, creating a long-term impact on this timber resource. This would mean that an additional 12 MMBF of timber would be foregone. The future growth would be lost which could be as high as 100 MBF per year. There would be timber losses due to insect-damaged and diseased trees, normal mortality, blowdown of decadent trees, and wildfire. The dead and dying trees could not be salvaged for timber products under the wilderness designation.

On a regional basis, the withdrawal of this amount of timber would not significantly affect the supply of timber, since it is very small (0.10 MMBF per year versus 17.92 MMBF per year available to the local market area). Also, this timber lies in rugged terrain and would require extensive costly road building for harvest.

Within the 9,660 contiguous acres, management, to improve and increase reproduction, would be restricted under wilderness designation. The ponderosa pine stands are currently understocked and there is little natural reproduction establishing under these stands. Many of the spruce-fir and pure spruce stands are overstocked, and growth is slow with many stand condition reaching a point of stagnation. In such a case, the stands would deteriorate and reach a point of negative growth. Not only could the timber values be affected, but the aesthetics could also be significantly changed.

Recreation

The designation as wilderness of the Powderhorn Primitive Area and 9,660 acres of contiguous lands could increase visitor use of the area. The increased exposure the area would receive due to public comment and news media coverage during the decision making process, as well as through outdoor recreation magazines and wilderness guide books, could cause additional visitation. While little research has been completed on the degree of use change it was believed that an additional 10 percent use for a 5 year period during the decision making process and carrying over into the first years as wilderness would represent the upper limits of increased use (based on a consensus of District recreation personnel). After this 5 year period, use would continue to increase at the projected 8 percent per year figure with the additional initial increase causing the use to increase faster than that projected in Chapter 3. Using this rate of increase the short term (1985) would experience an additional 484 visitors while the long term (1995) would experience an additional 1,044 visitors. Assuming that the length of stay would remain constant with the 1978 average the area would receive an extra 1,210 visitor days in 1985 and 2,610 visitor days in 1995. These figures would be subject to adjustment due to changing factors such as

travel costs and the area's social carrying capacity.

This increase effect would have an effect on uses in the long and short term. Focal points such as the lakes could become crowded causing users to move to another location or forego trips into the area.

The quality of hunting and fishing in the area over the short and long term would depend to a great extent on management actions taken by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW). The number of permits issued for this Game Management Unit could be adjusted to maintain recreation days or game populations. Fish populations in the lakes are now maintained through stocking programs. The DOW could increase stocking to provide for the additional fishing pressure and maintain fishing quality.

Off-road vehicles, snowmobiles, and 4-wheel drive activities would not be permitted on the 9,660 acres adjacent to the primitive area; however, this should not be a substantial impact due to the amount of land available for these activities in the region. The primitive area has been closed to motorized traffic since its designation so no additional impacts would occur on this portion.

Wilderness Values

The designation as wilderness would have a short and long term beneficial impact on the wilderness values present in the area by providing additional protection. The portion within the primitive area is now protected from impairments by an administrative designation. Designation as wilderness is decided only by Congress; withdrawal of this designation would also require congressional action. This protection would also be extended to the 9,660 acres of adjacent land proposed under this alternative, thus retaining the wilderness values present on the additional acreage.

Economic Impacts

Recreation use of the area would be the same for this alternative as under the proposed action. Recreation values would increase by \$22,350 in the short term and \$48,210 in the long term.

Under this alternative 0.1 MMBF of potential timber production would be foregone. The value of this annual loss would be \$4,000.

Adverse Impacts

Should the proposed action be implemented, adverse impacts would occur to some resources; certain resources would be impacted by increased visitor use, while others would be impacted by restrictions on their use.

For example, the projected increases in visitor use could lead to more trampling of vegetation and trail use, which would increase erosion. Additional people hiking near lakes and streams could increase the possibilities of fecal pathogens entering the local waters, which could be a health hazard. This increased human activity could disturb wildlife, particularly elk, and eventually lead to population declines.

The wilderness designation, and its projected resultant visitor use increases could lead to crowding in parts of the area, which would decrease its values for solitude and wilderness enjoyment.

Those physical use activities restricted by the wilderness designation (timber and mineral production and motorized recreation) would be adversely affected by the loss to their usable resource base. Such losses would apply only to the 9,660 contiguous acres, since the existing primitive area is already restricted from such uses.

The time, effort, and thus costs required to administer livestock grazing allotments and maintain rangeland improvements on the 9,660 contiguous acres could increase as a result of wilderness designation.

Short Term Use vs Long Term Productivity

If the proposed action were implemented, some short and long-term impacts and resource tradeoffs would occur. The use of some resources would be foregone in order to preserve the integrity of others.

In the short term and in the long term, visitor use is projected to increase. This increased use could lead to increases in vegetation trampling, erosion, and health hazards due to fecal pathogens in the water supply. The losses in opportunities for solitude and losses in wildlife populations would be short- and long-term impacts.

The losses (on the 9,660 acres of contiguous lands only) in some resource uses (timber, minerals, ORVs) would be short and long-term impacts, as would the increases in livestock grazing management costs.

Overall, the resource tradeoffs (on the 9,660 acres of contiguous lands) would involve foregoing the use of some resources (timber, minerals, ORVs) in order to enhance the use of other resources (wilderness character and primitive recreation and scenic values).

Irreversible/Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

There would be no irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources under this alternative.



CHAPTER 5

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The Powderhorn Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement was prepared by a multidisciplinary team in the BLM Montrose District, Colorado. The actual writing of the EIS began in October of 1979. However, for more than a year prior to that point, various pre-EIS studies and coordination efforts were carried out.

During the summer of 1978, an intensive wilderness inventory for the primitive area and contiguous lands was conducted.

The land use planning (Management Framework Plan or MFP) update for the EIS area was initiated during the fall of 1978. Public meetings were held in Lake City, Gunnison, Silverton, Montrose, and Denver to identify issues and concerns for the planning effort which included the Powderhorn Instant Study Area. The scheduling and purpose of these meetings were outlined in press releases to the local media. During this period coordination meetings were also held for local, state, and federal agencies.

In May of 1979, scoping/planning meetings were held in Lake City, Gunnison, Silverton, Montrose, and Denver in conjunction with completion of the MFP Step II. Prior to the meetings, notice of intent to hold scoping meetings and prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register and local media. Also prior to the meetings, a summary of the MFP II recommendations was sent to interested federal, state, and local agencies, Livestock Grazing Advisory Board, and interest groups, and to all livestock permittees in the EIS area.

Prior to and during the EIS writing process specific consultation was initiated with several state and federal agencies. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) was consulted concerning threatened or endangered plants and animals. The FWS responded that no endangered species would be affected. The Colorado Division of Wildlife was consulted concerning wildlife populations. The State Historic Preservation Officer reviewed the draft materials for possible impacts on cultural resources.

A public hearing announcement was published in the Federal Register on May 7, 1980. Written notification of the hearings and information on the study were sent to Governor Richard D. Lamm of Colorado; U.S. Senators Gary Hart and William Armstrong; U.S. Representatives Ray Kogovsek, James Johnson, Ken Kramer, Patricia Schroeder and Tim Wirth; five members of the Colorado State Legislature; twelve Federal agencies and departments; the Colorado State Clearinghouse; eighteen additional local officials and agencies; and numerous individuals and organizations.

Of the total 123 written and oral communications received for the record, 86 supported the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) proposed recommendation for designation for only the existing 38,840 acre Primitive Area, 12 favored the Use Alternative under which no land would be designated as wilderness, 17 were opposed to wilderness in general without favoring a particular alternative; and seven took no position. Additionally, no one favored either the No Action Alternative or the alternative for designating a 48,500 acre wilderness.

TABULATION OF COMMUNICATIONS
POWDERHORN WILDERNESS PROPOSAL HEARINGS

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u># of Communications</u>
43,311 acre wilderness - BLM proposal	86
38,840 acre wilderness - Primitive Area only	1
Use Alternative - No wilderness	29
No position	<u>7</u>
TOTAL:	123

Those supporting the BLM's proposed recommendation believed inclusion of the Powderhorn in the National Wilderness Preservation System would best preserve these alpine lands for present and future generations. Some specific reasons given by those in support of wilderness designation of the Powderhorn were: inclusion would preserve a highly scenic area with outstanding opportunities for high-altitude hiking and peaceful solitude; the whole Cannibal-Powderhorn alpine plateau system may be large enough to be a self-sufficient, integrated evolutionary area; the designation of this area as wilderness would be of positive benefit to our country's recreational economy.

Those opposing any wilderness designation believed that the Powderhorn area should be managed under the "multiple use concept." Some specific reasons for opposition to wilderness designation of the Powderhorn were; continued insect activity will make the area more susceptible to fire and less desirable for human use; adoption of a multiple use plan for this area will provide the opportunity to explore and develop the resources contained in the area; wilderness designation might result in stringent regulations being imposed on any

kind of development immediately outside wilderness boundaries.

The hearings were held in Colorado at Montrose, Gunnison, and Lake City on May 27, 28, and 29, 1980, respectively. Thirty-two people presented oral testimony at the hearings and ninety-one additional comments were submitted by mail.

The hearing officer was Patricia McDonald, Administrative Law Judge, Gallup, New Mexico. The BLM was represented by Bud Curtis, Area Manager; Jon Wesley Serling, Division of Resources; and Lance Nimmo, Planning and Environmental Coordination; all with the Montrose District.

Of the 32 people testifying at the hearings; four individuals supported the BLM proposal; one individual favored wilderness designation for only the Primitive Area; eight individuals favored the use alternative; 17 individuals opposed any wilderness designation; and two individuals took no position.

Two communications were received from elected officials. Colorado Governor Richard Lamm supported the BLM's proposal to establish a 43,311 acre Powderhorn Wilderness and recommended "that Congress act expeditiously in the designation." Gunnison County Commissioner Ken Watters spoke in opposition to wilderness in general without favoring a particular alternative.

Two letters were received from state and local officials, departments and agencies. A communication supporting the BLM's proposed recommendation was submitted by Susan Cottingham, Planning and Research Director, on behalf of the Town of Crested Butte, Colorado. A letter from the Colorado Division of Wildlife took no position.

A total of seven letters were received from Federal agencies. Of these, three supported the BLM's proposed recommendations while four took no position. A letter from the Associate Regional Director, Planning and Resource Preservation, Rocky Mountain Region, National Park Service, supported the BLM's proposal and stated that wilderness designation would also "contribute" to the enhancement of water quality in Blue Mesa Reservoir within Curecanti National Recreation Area. Letters from Region 8 of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Colorado-Utah Area Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also supported the BLM's proposed recommendations.

Communications from the following agencies took no position:

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Water and Power Resources Service
Geological Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation
Service

A total of eleven letters were received from organizations. Eight agreed with the BLM's recommendations while three opposed

wilderness designation and favored the Use Alternative. Those supporting the proposed recommendations were:

Animal Protection Institute of America
Colorado Council of Trout Unlimited
Colorado Section of the Society for
Range Management
Glendale Dental Group
Oregon High Desert Study Group
Periwinkle Alliance
Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
Wilderness Workshop of the Colorado
Open Space Council

Those favoring the Use Alternative were:

Atlantic Richfield Company
Buttes Resources Company
Woodland Management Consultants

Seventy communications, including letters and postcards, were received from citizens. Sixty-nine concurred with the BLM's proposed recommendation while one favored the Use Alternative.

TABLE 5-1

LIST OF AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PERSONS
TO WHOM COPIES OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT WERE SENT
(* Indicates a response received)

Federal Agencies

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation *
Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Soil Conservation Service
Department of Energy
Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
Water and Power Resource Service*
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service*
Geological Survey*
Bureau of Mines
National Park Service*
Environmental Protection Agency*

State Agencies

Governor's Clearing House--Colorado*

Local Agencies

County Commissioners
Gunnison County
Hinsdale County
San Juan County
Saguache County
Montrose County

Other Organizations and Individuals

Sierra Club
Colorado Open Space Council*
Izaak Walton League
The Wildlife Society
Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Wool Grower's Association
Audubon Society
Natural Resources Defense Council

TABLE 5-1 (Continued)

Society for Range Management*
Wilderness Society
Rocky Mountain Center on Environment
Trout Unlimited*
Colorado Historical Society
Ada County Fish and Game League
Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association
Oregon Environmental Council
National Council of Public Land Users
All Livestock Grazing Permittees In the EIS Area
Various Individuals Who Have Requested Copies of
All BLM Environmental Documents

TABLE 5-2

WRITTEN COMMENTS

The following are written comments received from individuals, groups, and government agencies concerning the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Each contribution is numbered, where necessary, its parts are also numbered. All parts are numbered in the left hand margin of the letter with corresponding answers appearing to the right of the reproduced letter. Most letters did not require a response.

For comments received at the public hearings the text is printed and the corresponding response, where required, appears to the right.

The order of written comments received by BLM is as follows:

<u>Letter Number</u>	<u>Individual, Group, or Agency</u>
1	State of Colorado
2*	Colorado Division of Wildlife
3	Town of Crested Butte
4*	Advisory Council on Historic Conservation
5	Water and Power Resources Service
6	Geological Survey
7	Bruce Berger
8	National Park Service
9*	Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
10*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
11	Buttes Resources Company
12	Mr. & Mrs. Glen W. Bowers
13	Art W. Wilson
14	Linda S. Wilson
15	John L. Hammond
16	Ronald A. Cox
17	Environmental Protection Agency
18	Dorothy Gumaer
19	Glendale Dental Group
20	Martin P. Albert
23	Charles M. and Nancy H. Bagley
24	R. A. Fuehrer
25	Karla Vander Zanden
26	Society for Range Management - Colorado Section
27	Peter and Lillian Zilliacus
28	Francas Dollar
29	Steen Smith
30	Mr. and Mrs. D. J. D'Amico
31	Norman Johnson
32*	William Gherardi
33	Janet Stuhrwood
34	Ron Guenther
35	Peter F. Brussard

TABLE 5-2 (Continued)

36	Robert B. Willey
37	John Hammond
38	Danny Simon
39	C. B. Johnson
40	Ward B. Watt
41	Colorado Council of Trout Unlimited
42	Margaret Thomas
43	Marquerite Christoph
44	Don Porinton
45	Linda Wade
46	Frank Norris
47	Wilma Kaemlein
48	Marnyne Betsch
49	Ms. Ethel W. Thorniley
50	Martin H. Finkelstein
51*	Atlantic Richfield Company
52	John L. Haran
53	Richard D. Tenney
54	Wilderness Workshop of the Colorado Open Space Council
55	J. D. And H. P. Mc Clymonds
56	David Epstein and Patricia S. Platt
57	Edward F. Helmers
58	Reed Secord
59	Henry Peck
60	Albert E. Honican
61	Wilderness Workshop of the Colorado Open Space Council
62	Marjorie M. Ryall
63	Byron Brewer
64	Richard Spotts
65	Albert Breto
66	George A. Bridges
67	C. Ballson
68	Animal Protection Institute
69	Phyllis L. Thompson
70	Connie Okmam
71	Alan Nessman
72	Gregg Foote
73	Kathy Nemeo
74	John and Merl Kuehn
75	Patricia Joralemon
76	Oregon High Desert Study Group
77	Beverly and Tony Baker
78	Jay H. Vest
79	Marjorie B. Kermick
80	Ken and Susie Fransis
81	Margel R. Johnson
82	Nina Johnson
83	Charlotte A. Sherick
84	R. C. Yoder
85	Connie Kay

TABLE 5-2 (Continued)

86	Derry Culp
87	Michael V. Colavito
88	Robert F. Mueller
89	Jake Rothney
90	Mr. and Mrs. John N. Lilly
91	Thelma C. Du Vinage

* Response made by BLM.

STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 639-2471

80 JUN 25 A7 46



Richard D. Lamm,
Governor

June 23, 1980

Mr. Charles W. Luscher
Acting State Director
Bureau of Land Management
790 Colorado State Bank Building
1600 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80202

Re: CO-922 1792
BLM Powderhorn Wilderness DEIS

Dear Mr. Luscher:

The State of Colorado respectfully requests that this letter be included in the official hearing record for the Powderhorn Wilderness Area Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the hearing record, required by Section 3(d) of Public Law 93-577 of 1964 - Wilderness Act.

The DEIS adequately assesses the impacts of the proposed action and further documents Powderhorn's wilderness characteristics. The State of Colorado recommends this Instant Study Area for permanent designation as a Wilderness Area with the alternative number one parameters established in the DEIS.

My recommendation supporting this Wilderness Area designation is based on the DEIS, consultation with State agencies, review of public participation comments, and the following information:

- Powderhorn has been managed as a primitive area for several years and designation as wilderness will not change its present use.
- Grazing can continue with minimal changes required by the current operation.
- This area is unique, being one of the largest expanses of alpine lands under BLM jurisdiction.
- This area, when considered on its own merits, far exceeds the minimal legal criteria established by Congress in defining wilderness characteristics.

Page Two
Mr. Charles W. Luscher
June 23, 1980

- Designation of this area as wilderness will complement the naturalness of the area. This is a logical inclusion of a natural existing wilderness ecosystem within this region of Colorado which is unique in the Nation and should be maintained for the enjoyment of future generations.
- The Powderhorn Wilderness is consistent with Colorado's past recommendations for additional wilderness area designations in Colorado.
- Visitors to this part of Colorado will have a greater variety of recreational resources available to them which will enhance their enjoyment of this region's character by the inclusion of this wilderness area.
- Designation of the Powderhorn Wilderness will provide many supplemental values including the protection of natural areas where plant and wildlife can propagate with minimal interference and manipulation.
- Projected growth in Western Colorado will increase the use of public lands resulting in degradation of the remaining primitive lands in this region. Designation of the Powderhorn Wilderness and other wilderness areas will protect and assure future generations the right to know and experience what Colorado was like prior to intensive development of the West.

This may be the first primitive area in the United States to be considered for Congressional designation as a wilderness area which is under BLM jurisdiction. Colorado wishes to share this precedent by recommending that Congress act expeditiously in the designation of the Powderhorn Wilderness area.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Lamm
Richard D. Lamm
Governor

STATE OF COLORADO
Richard B. Lewis, Governor
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
Jack R. Grish, Director
6040 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80216 (825-1192)



June 18, 1980

Mr. Henri Bisson
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 1269
Montrose, Colorado 81401

Dear Mr. Bisson:

Because of an unexplainable delay in receiving comments from our field personnel, we missed the deadline established by the State Clearinghouse for submitting our comments on the proposed Powderhorn Wilderness. Accordingly, we are sending our comments on the two draft documents directly to you in order that we may, at least, meet your deadline.

Basically, we found the documents satisfactory. A few of our concerns and some miscellaneous comments and recommendations are enclosed.

We appreciate your making these documents available for our review.

Sincerely,


Jack R. Grish
Director

RH:JG/d

encl:

cc: M. Pascoe
Clearinghouse
R. Evans
P. Barrows
R. Bosette
J. Houston
P. Mason

File: Primitive Areas -
Powderhorn

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON
PROPOSED POWDERHORN WILDERNESS¹

This response is based on a review by field and staff personnel of the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDW) of two documents: Powderhorn Draft Wilderness Suitability Report dated February 1980; and Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Proposed Wilderness Designation of the Powderhorn Instant Study Area and Contiguous Areas with Wilderness Character, prepared by the Bureau of Land Management.

The CDW has two major concerns with designation of the Powderhorn as wilderness: fish stocking and continued operation of the windmill. In a discussion of Wilderness Values on Page 57 of the statement, it is stated that the Powderhorn...has been managed consistent with the BLM Primitive Area Management Policy (BLM 6221.06) and the Wilderness Act of 1964...ever since the area was formerly designated a primitive area. This would seem to imply that fish stocking and operation of the windmill are acceptable activities. Such a conclusion is further substantiated by a statement on Page 59 that says that the windmill and other man-made structures are "substantially unnoticeable," which is a requirement of the Wilderness Act; and a statement on Page 73 that: "The CDW could increase stocking to provide for the additional fishing pressure and maintain fishing quality." We can only assume that present fish stocking procedures and use of the windmill would continue to be acceptable practices once the area is designated as wilderness. However, on Page 69, it is stated:

Under this alternative the proposed action there would be a greater probability that the CDW fish stocking program may be impacted than if there were no wilderness designation. The magnitude of this impact however is unknown at this time.

2 This would appear to raise some doubts about continuation of the present fish stocking program. Therefore, it is recommended that the continuation of these activities be explicitly addressed in the final impact statement.

Disturbance of terrestrial wildlife, principally elk, by an increase in human use following wilderness designation is mentioned on Page 87. Although true, such disturbances could be minimized by routing trails away from the more sensitive areas, seasonal closures, etc.

Although adverse impacts from the proposed action appear to be minimal, mitigation of the impacts should be addressed, as required by 40 CFR 1502.14(f) and 1052.16(h).

¹ Submitted to the Bureau of Land Management, Montrose, by Colorado Division of Wildlife, June 18, 1980.

2 Specific activities such as the stocking of fish and the operation of the windmill will not be impacted by wilderness designation. The Bureau views these activities as measures necessary for the continued existence of the wilderness area. This view is in accordance with the "Policies and Guidelines for Fish and Wildlife Management in Wilderness and Primitive Areas," (1976). Any potential changes in stocking programs will be considered only as a cooperative effort by the administering agency and the State agency, and would be addressed in a management plan which would be developed for the area.

Town of Crested Butte

P.O. Box 39

Crested Butte, Colorado 81224

—A National Historic District—

Phone: (303)349-5374

June 30, 1980

RECEIVED

JUN 30 1980
B.L.M. Montrose DIST.

Mr. Henri Bisson
Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1269
Montrose, Colorado 81401

Dear Mr. Bisson:

I am writing to express the Town of Crested Butte's support for the Bureau of Land Management's proposal to establish the 44,951 acre Powderhorn Wilderness. This acreage belongs to all Americans and should be preserved so that they and their future children can enjoy it. The area offers a wide range of recreational opportunities and is home to numerous forms of wildlife. Fishing in the area's many lakes and streams is excellent. The designation of this area as wilderness would, I believe, be of positive economic benefit to our country's recreational economy. Other resource conflicts are minimal because the area has had primitive management for a number of years.

Please include this letter as part of the hearing record.

Thanks very much.

Sincerely,

Susan Cottingham
Susan Cottingham
Planning & Research Director

SC/kf

cc: Representative Ray Kogovsek

**Advisory
Council On
Historic
Preservation**

The National Environmental Policy Act
of 1969
Preservation of Historic Places
of Executive Order 11653.

1522 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Reply to:

Lake Plaza South, Suite 616
44 Union Boulevard
Lakewood, CO 80228

May 19, 1980

Mr. Henri Bisson
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1269
Montrose, Colorado 81401

Dear Mr. Bisson:

The Council has reviewed your draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Powderhorn Wilderness Suitability Report circulated for comment pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act. We note that the undertaking will affect properties potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Circulation of a EIS, however, does not fulfill your agencies responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 470f, as amended, 90 Stat. 1320).

Prior to the approval of the expenditure of any Federal funds or prior to the granting of any license, permit, or other approval for an undertaking, Federal agencies must afford the Council an opportunity to comment on the effect of the undertaking on properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register in accordance with the Council's regulations, "Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR Part 800) (enclosed). Therefore, the environmental statement must demonstrate that either of the following conditions exists:

1. No properties included in or that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register are located within the area of environmental impact, and the undertaking will not affect any such property. In making this determination, the Council requires:
 - a) evidence that you have consulted the latest edition of the National Register (Federal Register, March 18, 1980, and its monthly supplements);
 - b) evidence of an effort to ensure the identification of properties eligible for inclusion in the National Register, including evidence of contact with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), where

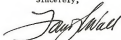
Page 2
Mr. Henri Bisson
Powderhorn Wilderness
May 15, 1980

4 comments should be included in the final environmental statement. The State SEPO for Colorado is Arthur Townsend.

2. Properties included in or that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register are located within the area of environmental impact, and the undertaking will or will not affect any such property. In cases where there will be an effect, the final environmental impact statement should contain evidence of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act through the Council's regulations.

Until these requirements are met, the Council considers the DES incomplete in its treatment of historical, archeological, architectural, and cultural resources. The Council's comments should be incorporated into any subsequent documents prepared to meet requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act. For further assistance, Marjorie L. Ingle may be contacted at (303) 234-4946, an FTS number.

Sincerely,



Louis G. Wall
Chief, Western Division
of Project Review

Enclosure

4 The BLM did consult the National Register of Historic Places and the State Historic Preservation Officer noted on page 43 of the DEIS. Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

This EIS transmits findings of fact to the Secretary of the Interior and the President with regard to the suitability or unsuitability of the area described for preservation as wilderness. It does not represent a management decision by the Bureau of Land Management, and is not an "undertaking" in the sense of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Interim management, as directed by Section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, will continue until the area is released from wilderness consideration or designated as wilderness by the Congress. In either case, the management plan which BLM will then develop will take into account its effects on properties eligible for or included in the National Register of Historic Places. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is not being asked to provide comment at this time.



United States Department of the Interior
WATER AND POWER RESOURCES SERVICE

UPPER COLORADO REGION
FURNACE SPRING TOWNSHIP
P.O. BOX 648
DURANGO COLORADO 81301

IN REPLY,
REFER TO 100
500.1

MAY 23 1980

RECEIVED
MAY 23 1980
BLM

Memorandum

To: Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Montrose, Colorado
From: Projects Manager, Durango Projects Office
Subject: Comments on the Powderhorn Wilderness Draft Environmental Statement

We have reviewed the Powderhorn Wilderness draft environmental statement and have the following general comments.

It is apparent from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement that impacts to the Powderhorn primitive area will not be of major consequence if it is included in the wilderness system.

Local economies are based upon tourism (Lake City) and the expected increase in visitor use will add to the economic base of this community. Mineral development in the area is not economically profitable presently, and the mining withdrawal prohibits this type of activity in the designated area. Forestry products when viewed from a local area make up only a small proportion of presently merchantable timber. As outlined, the development of the timber resources of the area would require extensive road development which would create visual impacts to the area.

The area is unique in the vastness of the alpine meadow landscape it contains. The redesignation of the 40,480 acres of primitive area to wilderness would change little of the present use patterns for the area or have any significant impact upon the environment.

John R. Brown



United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
BOX 25036 M.S. 602
DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1977

June 5, 1980

RECEIVED
JUN 10 1980
BLM

Memorandum

To: Mr. Henri Bisson, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Montrose, Colorado
From: Area Mining Supervisor, GIMA
Subject: Powderhorn Wilderness, Draft EIS and Draft Wilderness Suitability Report

The subject draft reports have been reviewed by this office. The reports appear to have adequately addressed all interests. The lands are not indicated to contain significant mineral value potential. There is little probability of existence of leasable minerals.

This office has no objection to designating the lands for wilderness consideration.

John T. Skinner
John T. Skinner

Henri Bisson, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Box 1269
Montrose, Colorado 81401

RECEIVED
JUN 17 80
B.L.M. Montrose Dist.

June 15, 1980

Dear Mr. Bisson:

I feel strongly about the need to leave a wilderness legacy to the next generation, and would like to add my enthusiastic support to the BLM proposal to establish a 44,951 acre Powderhorn Wilderness.

I would like this letter included in your hearing record.

Sincerely,
Bruce Berger
Bruce Berger
Box 482
Aspen, Colorado 81611

cc. Ray & Ray Logovsek



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE
635 Parfet Street
P.O. Box 25267
Denver, Colorado 80225

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7619 (RND)PC

JUN 23 1980

RECEIVED
JUN 23 80
B.L.M. Montrose Dist.

Memorandum

To: Project Manager, Montrose District, Bureau of Land Management, Montrose, Colorado

From: Associate Regional Director, Planning and Resource Preservation, Rocky Mountain Region

Subject: Review of draft environmental impact statement/wilderness suitability report on proposed Powderhorn Wilderness

We support the Bureau of Land Management's proposal to have the Powderhorn area designated as wilderness. Such designation would prevent activities from taking place which could lead to degradation of water quality in the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River. This designation would thus also contribute to the enhancement of water quality in Blue Mesa Reservoir within Curecanti National Recreation Area.

Richard A. Strait
Richard A. Strait

Year of
the
Visitor



IN REPLY REFER TO:

DES-60/11

United States Department of the Interior
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE
MID-CONTINENT REGION
POST OFFICE BOX 25487
DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

JUN 25 1980

MEMORANDUM

To: Henri Bisson, Bureau of Land Management
Montrose, Colorado

From: Assistant Regional Director, Land Use Coordination

Subject: Review of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed
Powderhorn Wilderness

Despite the lack of cultural resources survey of the Powderhorn area, four archeological sites and four log cabins with some potential historic value are known to exist within the area. We are pleased to note that the proposed management plan does not call for any alteration of these resources. However, the environmental statement (p. 70) indicates that additional vandalism is expected due to the predicted increases in visitation. We suggest that in accordance with Executive Order 11593, the Bureau of Land Management consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for Colorado regarding the significance of these cultural resources and their eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. If considered potentially eligible, then we further suggest that the Bureau of Land Management consider the implementation of whatever measures are available (e.g., signing, recording the sites by means of photographs, realigning trails away from sites, eliminating cabin symbols from maps) to protect the sites from further vandalism. The final statement should include documentation of consultation with the SHPO regarding these matters.

John C. Hollenbach
for
Robert J. Arkins

cc: SHPO, Denver, CO

There are no archeological or historic sites recorded within the Powderhorn Study Area. As sites are discovered the appropriate historic preservation procedures will be followed and sites determined to be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places will be avoided or mitigated.

Due to anticipated increased visitation to the area vandalism to cultural values is expected to increase. This suggestion is based on known effects of increased visitation in other areas. As sites are discovered then plans will be made to avoid or mitigate those sites that are likely to be vandalized.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
 AREA OFFICE, COLORADO-UTAH
 1311 FEDERAL BUILDING
 125 SOUTH STATE STREET
 SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84138

IN REPLY REFER TO: (ES)

July 7, 1980

MEMORANDUM

TO: Henri Bisson
 Bureau of Land Management
 Montrose, Colorado 81401

FROM: Robert H. Shields
 Area Manager, Area 5
 Salt Lake City, Utah

SUBJECT: Comments on the Powderhorn Wilderness Draft Environmental Impact Statement

RECEIVED
 JUL 16 1980
 B.L.M. MONTROSE 1980

We have reviewed the draft environmental statement on the proposed Powderhorn Wilderness area and support proposed action. We believe the analysis of the several alternatives adequately describes the impacts of the actions to the existing environment. The proposed Powderhorn Wilderness meets the criteria defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and we support your recommendation to submit the Powderhorn Wilderness proposal to Congress for designation as a wilderness area.

Specific Comments

10 Page 66 in the first paragraph under Impacts on Water Resources, it states, "The increase in recreational use would compact soils, increasing the amount of surface runoff and soil loss. As a result, tree roots could become exposed, reducing the trees' vigor and the amount of over-story vegetation,..." This appears to be inconsistent with the statement found on page 67 under Impacts on Vegetation which reads, "The vegetation impacts due to this alternative would be negligible. A very slight increase in trampling of vegetation by visitors to the area may occur, ..." If, however, the statement on page 66 under Impacts on Water Resources is correct, would the soil compaction caused by recreationists be greater than compaction caused by cows or sheep using the same area? Could the compaction caused by the recreationists be determined separately from that caused by livestock?

Page 75, paragraph 2 under Adverse Impacts reads, "... increases in visitor use could lead to more trampling of vegetation and trail use, which would increase erosion." This statement also appears to conflict with the one on page 67 under Impacts on Vegetation. We question whether recreationists' foot traffic would increase trampling to the point erosion

Page 2

10

would increase measurably. Normal cattle or sheep trailing between water, forage and bed grounds are believed to be a more serious cause of trampling and increased erosion than recreationist foot traffic.

We thank you for this opportunity to review and comment on your Powderhorn Wilderness draft environmental statement.



97

10 The text has been changed to correct these apparent contradictions. Studies have shown that in localized areas of concentrated recreation use, foot traffic can increase trampling of vegetation and erosion. It is also recognized that livestock grazing can cause vegetation trampling and erosion. However, designation or non-designation of the area will not change the levels or use patterns of livestock grazing. Therefore, an increase or decrease of vegetation trampling and erosion caused by livestock grazing is not expected.

BUTTES RESOURCES COMPANY
A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF BUTTER GAS & OIL CO.

MINERAL EXPLORATION DIVISION
SUITE 4 URBANUM BLDG
MOORE, UTAH 84052
(801)559-8181

MAILING ADDRESS
P. O. BOX 806
MOORE, UTAH
84052

M-80-115
May 9, 1980

Mr. Henri Bisson
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1269
Montrose, CO 81401

RE: Proposed Powderhorn Wilderness.

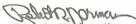
Dear Mr. Bisson:

As you probably already know, our company controls approximately 5,000 acres of proven mineral lands in the Iron Hill Area, only 2 1/2 miles from the northeast boundary of the proposed Powderhorn wilderness area.

Considerable expenditures have gone into exploration, research, and development of these properties containing vital minerals most essential to the nations economy. It is our contention that to be in such close proximity to a wilderness area, stringent regulations would surely be imposed on any kind of development immediately outside. Protests from groups far removed from Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties could inevitably have a serious adverse affect on this most significant and major project.

Therefore, we take the position that the status quo be maintained, i.e., the subject lands be maintained under the multiple use concept.

Very truly yours,



Robert R. Norman, Mgr.
Minerals Exploration

RECEIVED

MAY 13 1980

BLM - Montrose Dist.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen W. Bonessa
Powderhorn, Colorado 81263
May 29, 1980

To Whom It May Concern:

On every level possible, historically, economically, psycho-socially, biologically and philosophically, we are opposed to a wilderness designation for the so-called Powderhorn Paintline Area.

Such a designation represents a further extension of an elitist, patrist philosophy which seeks to restrict use of some area in this country to about one per cent of our population--those who are healthy and wealthy enough to gain access.

Instead of pursuing a policy which allows land to be available for multiple use and which allows opportunities for many to enjoy the scenic beauties of an area, as has been done in Switzerland, for example, our government persists in a policy of locking out areas to the majority of its citizens. This presumes an inability to create ways for lands to be used and enjoyed without destroying them.

It represents a position on the part of the Bureau of Land Management that "they" know best what should be done with millions of acres of land. This position on the part of the BLM has evolved because not enough individuals have spoken up and a bureaucratic wilderness of its own has been allowed to grow in the vacuum of this quiescence. A vacuum which has allowed BLM representatives to say to themselves, as we heard in a public meeting in Lake City several weeks ago, "We must save you from yourselves." That such a sense of superiority and power exists in a governmental unit supposedly working for the people is a sign of the malignancy which we have let grow.

Other signs of this growth are the mountains of paper work put out to sustain the bureaucracy, the number of vehicles used by BLM personnel for their monitoring work--it's a saying in this area that two BLM men acquire two cars--and the meals and lodging paid for at public expense.

We are among the few people whose daily lives are surrounded by the Powderhorn Paintline Area. Our enjoyment of this area is more affected by government personnel, helicopters taking garbage, government planes overhead and pseudo-scientific wilderness designation terms such as the BLM puts out in inventory reports than by any general use of the area. Mr. Bonessa, like countless victims, has a physical handicap which prevents him from ascending land he grew up on, hised old, over as a child, and was concerned with for many years as a county commissioner in a county almost totally federally owned.

Why should nourishment of a few be sought by exclusion of the many?

Why should the best of this country's constitution be allowed to be assailed by what appears to be a generation of mostly well-trained techno-crats who have no inherent knowledge of the land and eco-systems they are dealing with. At the same time, people whose families have lived in an area for generations are looked upon with contempt; their use of public lands restricted, to the extent that Wildhounds are increasingly being lost and large tracts of open land are being turned into subdivisions. Forgotten is what it took to haul just one length of log in some areas and what it took for a man to survive.

We agree with Dr. Lewis Thomas that we might more usefully look upon man as a valuable, endangered species--one an indispensable element of nature and one the environment is sorry about most. (From The Lives of a Cell-Dilling Press 1974).

An artificial dichotomy which seeks to separate man from nature is doomed from the start. And where did most of those who wish these vast domains of set-apart holdings first take their hikes or experience natural beauty if not via some initial road or access route. Road building--a real connection with our environment--has to be created within ourselves, whether on a mountain top or in a crowded city. We cannot sit with us and to create and let continue a man made wilderness, a particular set apart place for those few who do not realize this is indeed primitive.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Alan H. Bouwre

Mr. and Mrs. Glen H. Bouwre

Copies to governmental representatives

#13 Box 135
Conifer Co 80433
May 28, 1988 RECEIVED

cwc

Hemi Basin Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1269
Montrose Colo 81401

BLM 100-100000

Dear Mr. Bissin.

I have had the pleasure of being in the Powderhorn Primitive area on several occasions, one of which was an excess of three months. I feel that I have an intimate knowledge of that area from its low spruce forests to its high timbered plains. While I am not a geologist, I do have enough experience to say that there was very little evidence of mineral wealth. In fact I'd say none! The timber is not what I would call of commercial value. I found many attractive streams, beaver, deer and a few elk. I saw evidence that TBIG horn sheep live in the area. The Powderhorn lake area was heavily used and I met many fine people there.

I can see no reason why the BLM and citizens proposal for some 44,000 plus acres wilderness should not become fact. I strongly support the wilderness proposal made by the BLM.

Please make this letter a part of the hearing record.

Respectfully
A.H.W. Wilson

Route 3, Box 135
 Conifer, Colorado 80435

June 8, 1980

RECEIVED
 JUN 11 1980

B.L.M. Montrose Dist.

Henri Bisson, Project Manager
 Bureau of Land Management
 P. O. Box 1269
 Montrose, Colorado 81401

Dear Sir:

I have had the pleasure of backpacking and fishing in the beautiful Powderhorn Primitive Area. While in the area, I saw elk, deer, big-horn sheep and beaver.

I understand that there is opposition to making this area a Wilderness from miners, livestock grazers and off-road vehicle users. Yet, the Powderhorn lacks operable sawtimber and minerals. And, under the 1964 Wilderness Act, existing grazing permits would continue. Thus, the opposition seems shortsighted. In my opinion, the best and wisest use of this land is for Wilderness. I strongly support the BLM proposal to establish the 44,951-acre Powderhorn Wilderness Area.

Sitting in the Powderhorn Primitive Area, watching a beaver repair a beaver dam, I felt that this was the way it should be. There was no noise, save for chipmunks squeaking, and the occasional splash made by the beaver's tail. And, I was struck by the idea that in today's modern hustle and bustle, we harried humans will need this sort of peace more and more.

Again, I want to voice my strong support for a 44,951-acre Powderhorn Wilderness Area, and ask that this letter be made a part of the official hearing record.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Linda S. Wilson
 Linda S. Wilson

cc: Rep. Ray Eogswick

2004 SW Dewett St.

Portland, OR 97201

June 10, 1980

Mr. Henry Bisson, Project Manager
 BLM P.O. Box 1269
 Montrose, Colorado 81401

Dear Mr. Bisson,

I am very pleased to hear of the BLM's proposal for a 45,000 acre Powderhorn Wilderness, and I am writing to express my strong support. Because of the outstanding scenic, wildlife, and primitive recreation values of the Powderhorn area, it clearly deserves Wilderness status.

I have been watching the Oregon BLM wilderness inventory and am pleased at the sensitivity and competence with which it is being conducted. Apparently you folks in Colorado are doing a good job, too!

Respectfully,

JUN 13 1980

B.L.M. Montrose Dist.

Sincerely yours,
 John L. Henderson



Box 856
Nederland, CO 80466
June 11, 1980

Mr. Henri Bisson, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 1249
Montrose, CO 81401

Dear Mr. Bisson:

Please register my strong support for BLM's excellent proposal to establish a 44,951 acre Powderhorn Wilderness. To me some of the country proposed for inclusion offers the finest high-altitude roaming area for peaceful and quiet solitude combined with spectacular scenery. I believe this area can serve the people of the state and all future generations best by remaining unspoiled wilderness.

I have spent a lot of time among the people in nearby towns such as Lake City and Creede and it is my impression that their frequent opposition to new wilderness areas is automatic and based on vague fears of lost jobs, less timber to harvest, and so forth, yet they themselves value the wilderness qualities which their outdated pioneer ethic urges them to convert to hard fast. I hope that in dealing with local opponents of the Powderhorn proposal, it can be made clear that the overall best use of the area is to set it aside as wilderness. I know and appreciate how difficult it is to bridge the gap between the two mentalities.

I would like especially to thank you for your wise judgement in recommending the Powderhorn Wilderness.

Would you kindly make my correspondence a part of the hearing records and keep me informed of further developments? Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

Ronald A. Cox
Ronald A. Cox

cc: Rep. Ray Egoevsek

JUN 12 1980
REF: 84-EE

Henri Bisson
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1269
Montrose, Colorado 81401

Dear Mr. Bisson,

We have reviewed the Powderhorn Wilderness draft environmental impact statement and have rated it LO-1. This means we have no objection to the proposed action and support the designation of the Powderhorn Primitive Area (40,484 acres) and contiguous acreage (4,471 acres) as wilderness.

Sincerely yours,

for *for* *for*
for *for* *for*
for *for* *for*
C. A. Williams, DRA
Roger L. Williams
Regional Administrator

June 15, 1980

Mr. Henry Disson, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 1289
Montrose, Colo. 81401

Re: Powderhorn Wilderness Proposal

Dear Mr. Disson:

I will strongly support the BLM proposal for a 41,851 acre Powderhorn Wilderness.

As the proposed wilderness acreage is contiguous to another area proposed for wilderness study by the Forest Service, it would be appropriate and certainly advantageous from the standpoint of management and also integrity of ecosystems to have the entire combined acreage designate as wilderness, and given the protection it will have under the Wilderness Act,

opposition to establishment of wilderness for this area is unfounded, for livestock grazing can continue under the provisions of the Wilderness Act, and there is no appreciable amount of either timber or valuable minerals known to be present. Since a large part of the acreage is timber, it would be too fragile to take the impact of oil's or mining activity.

This is a place where the cost-benefit ratio would not justify development or increased travel. Wilderness reserved is like money in the bank, or better, for it does not lose its resource value, but will become more valuable in the future as the ratio of population to resources changes.

Please include this letter in the hearing record.

Sincerely yours,

Ray Kogorski
Ray Kogorski

cc: Representative Ray Kogorski

RECEIVED
JUL 15 1980
BLM MONTROSE

102

**Glendale
Dental
Group**

Fred D Greenblatt, D.D.S. • Myron A. Sidon, D.D.S. • Stephen M. Winber, D.D.S. and associates

June 17, 1980

Henri Disson
Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 1289
Montrose, CO 81401

Dear Mr. Disson:

My colleagues and I would like to register in the strongest possible terms our support for the proposed Powderhorn Wilderness Area. Not only is this area one of spectacular scenic beauty, but its singular lack of developable timber and mineral resources make such an area a small loss to our resource base. The designation of such an area as a wilderness would be a service not only to the people of Colorado, but to their children as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours very truly,

Stephen M. Winber

Stephen M. Winber, D.D.S.

SMW/jew gr

P. S. Please include this letter as part of the Hearing record.

cc: Representative Ray Kogorski, House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

Martin J. Albert, M.D.

P.O. Box 59
Ivy, Virginia 22945
(804) 823-5286

Henri Bisson
Project Manager
BLM PO Box 1269
Montrose, Colo 81401

SLM
MONTROSE

Dear Mr. Bisson:

I wish to express my strong
support for the 44,951 acre Powder-
horn Wilderness Proposal.

Please include this letter as
part of the hearing record.

Sincerely
Martin Albert M.D.

c.c. Rep Ray Rogovsek

Box 701
Whittier, AK, 99502
June 13, 1980

R/

Henri Bisson
BLM
P.O. Box 1269
Montrose, Colorado 81401

SLM

Dear Mr. Bisson,

We strongly support the BLM proposal to establish the
44,951 acre Powderhorn Wilderness. The area's vast
expanse of alpine country far surpasses the basic
wilderness requirements of solitude, opportunities
for primitive recreation and natural integrity.

Please make this letter part of the hearing record.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy R. Lethcoe

Nancy R. Lethcoe
4 Green Valley

R. James Lethcoe

June 24, 1980

Dear sirs

I would like to express my support for
the BLM recommendation to designate
44,951 acres as the Powderhorn
Wilderness.

Sincerely

D Foreman

DAVE FOREMAN
PO Box 38
Glenwood, NM 88039

1235 8th Avenue West
Seattle, Washington 98119
June 23, 1980

BLM Wilderness
P.O. Box 1269
Montrose, Colorado 81401

Re: Powderhorn

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to support your agency's proposal that the Powderhorn area, including another 45,000 acres of wilderness, all be officially recognized as wilderness and permanently preserved. We are glad that you are making this proposal.

Best wishes,

Charles M. and Nancy H. Bagley
Charles M. and Nancy H. Bagley

Mr. Bison,

June 25th

I am familiar with the Powderhorn Primitive Area in SW Colorado. It represents the beautiful and still wild sections left in our great state. It is also large enough to provide excellent solitude and home for large amounts of wildlife.

With most of BLM lands destined for development, I strongly urge you to preserve this fine area and set aside the 40,000 plus acres as wilderness.

Sincerely,
Mr. Fisher

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
1000 G ST., N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

REC-117
JUN 25 1980
BLM, MONTROSE DIST.

Box 1875
Ouray, Co
June 25, 1980

Project Manager
BLM
Box 1269
Montrose, Co 81401

REC-117
JUN 25 1980
BLM, MONTROSE DIST.

Dear Mr. Henri Bison,

I am writing to express my support for the BLM proposal to establish the 44,951 acre Powderhorn wilderness. I am a land owner in Ouray and am attracted to the SW region of Colorado due to its wild character and opportunity for wilderness recreation.

The Powderhorn area supports wildlife and fishing so important for tourist and outfitter and guide industry - a low impact and renewable industry. This unit lies adjacent to the Forest Service's Cannibal Plateau Roadless area which is selected for further wilderness study. Please include my letter as part of the hearing record.

Thank you.
Karla VanderZanden

Colorado Section
Society for Range Management
June 25, 1980

Henri Bisson
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1269
Montrose, CO 81401

Dear Mr. Bisson:

I have reviewed the Powderhorn Wilderness Suitability Report Draft and the Powderhorn Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement Draft. Both reports are very comprehensive and accurate. The Society for Range Management supports your recommendation.

Sincerely,

Paul Senteny

Paul Senteny
President Elect
Colorado Section
Society for Range Management

FFSenteny;jan

cc: Ross Campbell
Floyd Kinsinger

RECEIVED
BLM, Montrose, CO

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MONTROSE, CO 81401

27

June 25, 1980

To whom it may concern:

Just a note to let you know
we support the BLM
Recommendation 7 48, 95
as a suitable for
wilderness.

Patricia Zillman
Lillian Zillman

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

BLM, Montrose

June 25, 1980

28

Bureau of Land Management

Another area of spectacular beauty in the United States is the Powderhorn, to be found in Colorado. It is not only magnificent but one of the least disturbed areas in the lower forty-eight. I am delighted with the BLM decision to recommend that the entire area be designated wilderness, picnic and this is of no smaller importance) the contiguous wild land (+7,751 acres).

The area surely should be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sincerely yours,
Francis J. Miller
6030 Coldwater Canyon #
Van Nuys, Calif. 91410

JUN 25 1980
BLM Montrose Dist

BLM
Wilderness
P.O. BOX 1267
Montrose, Co. 81401

June 25, 1980

Dear Sir,

I am writing in support of your recommendation of 44,951 acres for a Powderhorn wilderness. The region is unique and deserves this protection so people in the future can enjoy the area also.

I also support the Colorado Conservationist USA proposal, all 90 NSAs totaling 1,040,000 acres deserve protection. And please keep me up-to-date on the wilderness review so my voice will be counted in support of BLM wilderness.

Thankyou,
Steven Smith
12110 S.E. 96th Pl.
Renton, Wt. 98055

RECEIVED

JUN 30 1980

BLM Montrose Dist

29

June 25, 1980

Bureau of Land Management
Wilderness
P.O. BOX 1269
Montrose, Colorado 81401

B.L.M. MONTROSE DIST.

RE: Powderhorn Primitive Area, Colorado

Gentlemen:

We would like to express our support for the Bureau of Land Management's recommendation of 44,951 acres of the Powderhorn as suitable for wilderness.

We feel this area offers unique and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation within an alpine tundra area and should be protected with a wilderness designation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

D. J. D'Amico
Mr. & Mrs. D. J. D'Amico
1328 Peach Day
Sacramento, CA 95825

June 26, 1980

Dear Friends,

Your commendable instant study shows all deserve wilderness protection, and I want very much to see the great scenic area of the Powderhorn added to our wilderness system. So much of our land has already been lost that I was embarrassed when a foreign tourist told me he wanted to see the prairie. Indeed, where now is the prairie?

I look to you.

faithfully yours,



Woodland Management Consultants
P. O. Box 10
Fort Collins, Colorado 80522
(303) 221-1336

June 26, 1980

Mr. Henry Biseon
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1267
Montrose, CO 81401

Dear Mr. Biseon,

After careful review of the impact statement for the Powderhorn area, it is my opinion that the area should be managed as a backcountry area.

Wilderness designation will create a burden to the owners of the grazing allotments, continued insect activity will make the area more susceptible to fire and less desirable for human use, and finally the present and future needs of all Colorado citizens can best be met by having every possible acre available for multiple uses rather than a single resource use.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

William Gherardi

William Gherardi
Forester

32

RECEIVED
JUN 30 1980
R.L.M. Montrose Dist.

32 The livestock grazing activities within the existing 4,471 acre Primitive Area would not be affected by Wilderness designation. This is presently grazed under the wilderness management policy and no change is anticipated. The DEIS does point out that a slight increase in time and manpower could be required to graze livestock on the 3,720 acres which is presently outside the Primitive Area.

The DEIS also points out the potential impacts to the vegetation resource caused by insect damage, normal mortality, blowdown and wildfire. These factors are all part of a natural process and are recognized as such in any wilderness designation.

June 26, 1960
 29900 Highway 20
 Fort Bragg, California 95437

For the Public Hearing Record

BLM Wilderness
 POB 1269
 Montrose, Colorado 81401

RE: Wilderness Proposals.

Members of the BLM Wilderness Planning Team:

Please include these comments and suggestions as part of the public hearing record on BLM Wilderness Proposals.

I wish to support the BLM recommendation of 44,951 acres for wilderness in the Foudershorn area. This would include the entire primitive area plus contiguous wild lands.

The Foudershorn is one of the largest and least disturbed areas of flat alpine tundra in the lower 48 states. It is a highly scenic area with glacial cirques and lakes, and spectacular views of the near by San Juan Mountains. It offers outstanding opportunity for cross country travel in an alpine environment. Wilderness values were recognized as early as 1969 when the Foudershorn was proposed by BLM as a primitive area.

It seems clear that this area is prime wilderness, and meets all of the criteria for wilderness designation.

I urge that wilderness proposals for the Foudershorn area be submitted to the Congress for action which will include this outstanding wilderness area in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Thank you for your consideration.


 Ron Quenter

June 26, 1960

RECEIVED

JUN 28 1960

BLM MONTROSE DIST

Bureau of Land Management
 Montrose
 P.O. Box 1269
 Montrose, Colorado 81401

Dear Sir:

I wish to express my support for the BLM recommendation to establish a 44,951 acre Foudershorn Shelders area.

This area has provided outstanding recreational opportunities in an alpine environment. Designating this area as wilderness is essential of the primitive character of the land is to be preserved.

Sincerely,
 Janet Stalvikson
 15762 115th Street Court, S.W. 48
 Tacoma Washington 98499

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

CONTINUED FROM JOHN C. JOHNSON PAGES
A HIGH ALTIMITUDE FIELD STATION WILDERNESS RESERVE OF THE UNITED STATES
CRESTED BUTTE, COLORADO 81263

OFFICERS

Robert B. Wiley
President
University of Utah
Cannon, Shosh 68622
Kenneth B. Amstrup
Vice President
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas 66045
Peter F. Brussard
Secretary
Central University
Waco, New York 14854
R. E. Beatty
Executive Director
Western State College
Greeley, Colorado 81325
Alice C. Johnson, Jr.
Registrar
Purdue State University
Purdue, Kansas 66202
Virginia E. Dunbar
Secretary
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin 53706
William R. Haber
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University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113

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Western State College
Robert B. Wiley
U. of Illinois, Chicago Circle

Mr. Henri Bisson
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1269
Montrose, Colorado 81401

Dear Mr. Bisson:

As Director of R.M.B.L., I am writing in support of alternative #1, designating the Powderhorn Primitive Area and 4,471 acres of contiguous lands as the Powderhorn Wilderness Area. I am pleased to read on page 60-61 that scientific and educational values have been considered as one of the unique values of the proposed wilderness area. Several of our senior investigators and graduate students are conducting long term studies on temporal changes in genetic diversity of insects on Mesa Seco, which borders the existing Primitive Area. It is important to have a large undisturbed buffer zone contiguous to the experimental area to allow normal migration and gene flow to process.

The whole Cimarral-Powderhorn alpine plateau system may be large enough to be a self-sufficient, integrated evolutionary area. These investigators are most concerned that this plateau be protected by an optimum mix of protected wilderness, limited access tracks, and well planned resource management areas. Since the Plateau system is partly under the administration of The B.L.W. and partly under the Gannison National Forest, we urge the two services to coordinate their management and resource planning to achieve the integrated planning that this unique national treasure deserves.

Sincerely yours,
Peter F. Brussard
Peter F. Brussard, Ph.D.
Director

FPB:ekg

35

Powderhorn, CO 81243

June 26, 1980

Mr. Henri Bisson
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 1269
Montrose, Colorado 81401

Dear Mr. Bisson:

I want to congratulate you on an excellent draft EIS for the Proposed Powderhorn Wilderness Area. My property borders the proposed wilderness at Cathedral and I fully support your preferred alternative #1. I vigorously oppose the alternatives #3 and #4 which would not provide statutory wilderness protection. I know the rapidity with which urban and exploitive development can devastate a target area and I want the privilege of the careful deliberation that would precede any revision of the wilderness status prompted by national or local needs.

It is unfortunate in one sense that so much of the remnant wilderness is situated in Hinsdale and Gunnison Counties. However, this coincides the fact that the seemingly "unfair" distribution is the result of rampant development elsewhere. This development has left only about 1% of the land area of the contiguous United States as wilderness of the quality of the Powderhorn. In the long run, the people of Hinsdale County may profit more directly from the designation of the Wilderness Area than from the maximum exploitation of their natural resources by outside interests for external profit that never will accrue to the local residents' well being.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Yours truly,

Robert B. Wiley

Robert B. Wiley
(Winter address:
6700 S. Orleans
Chicago, IL 60649)

RECEIVED
JUN 30 1980
R.M. Bioscience Dept.

June 26, 1980
RECEIVED
JUN 30 1980
R.M. Bioscience Dept.

24
24

Dear BLM,

6-25-80

I am writing to voice my strong support for your proposed 44,950 acre Wilderness in the Powderhorn area of the San Juan Co.

I have watched at first hand the Bureau process in Oregon and, at a distance, in other Western States, and I am generally very satisfied with the competence and sensitivity with which you are proceeding. Thank you for the good work!

Sincerely,
John Hammond

37

38

Dammy Simon
3123 Mentor
Wichita, Kansas
67213

RECEIVED

JUN 1 1980

B.L.M. MONTROSE DIST.

Dear Director:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Bureau's recommendation of wilderness area protection for 44,951 acres of Powderhorn Primitive Area and contiguous wildlands.

This outstanding alpine tundra and its pristine natural values would make an excellent addition to the Wilderness System.

Please add my support for the proposed Powderhorn Wilderness as part of the record.

Sincerely,
Dammy Simon

BLM, Wilderness
P.O. Box 1369
Montrose, CO.
8/19/81

Dear Sir or Madam,

I simply wanted to voice my
support for the BLM recommendation
of 44,951 acres of the Powderhorn as
wilderness.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

C.B. Johnson

Cook, WA 98605
June 24, 1980

BLM, Montrose, CO

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
Grated Butte, CO 81224
25 June 1980

Barry Blomson, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1269
Montrose, Colorado 81401

Dear Sir:

I am writing to comment on the Draft EIS and Draft Wilderness Suitability Report for the proposed Powderhorn Wilderness, which your office recently sent to me at my academic-year address. Please note that until September 1980 I am now at my summer field address, as noted above, in Comanche County, Colorado.

I wish to express my strongest support for the full incorporation of the BLM Powderhorn Primitive Area, and appropriate attendant regions, into the Wilderness System, in particular with respect to scientific/educational values. Your EIS notes that this region is "reported to be" one of the largest intact expanses of alpine tundra ecology south of continental tree line. In fact, to be specific, one would probably have to go to the Mackenzie Range of Yukon/ N.W.T., Canada, to find a comparable expanse of alpine tundra. This region also displays several ecologically unusual "interface" community types of unusual scientific interest. I and my colleagues have previously reported in the ecological literature (1) on an unusual contact of montane and alpine grasslands on the south edge of this formation, in Forest Service holdings on the Mess Seco. On inspection of your reports, it is immediately apparent that the contacts of Gull Creek Plateau with Big Meadow Park and surrounding areas (NSR p. 26; EIS p. 19) display the identical "contact" community aspect with respect to botanical features of the community. Moreover, the Puzosign badlands (EIS pp. 33-34) is botanically identical to a contact species of the genus Boloria (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) is presently being described (2); it is very likely that not only this animal, but possibly other unusual or unique animals and plants, occur in this region. In short, there is considerable reason to believe that in protecting the Powderhorn country under the Wilderness system, Congress will be protecting not only a large and consecutive block of general tundra ecology, but also a region of unique and irreplaceable scientific resources.

I am concerned to comment on certain anxieties expressed by some local citizens about this action. The evidence is clear that there are no mineral resources of economic scale present within the region, and that exploitable timber resources are absolutely minimal and, due to the short growing season and other unfavorable productivity considerations, essentially non-renewable. The extremely easily disturbed soil types, steep slopes, and fragile ecosystems of the region render it totally unsuitable for motorized vehicle recreation, such as dirt bikes or four-wheel-drive WVs; no responsible wildland manager could authorize such activities in this region even were it released for multiple-use management. In fact, the only activities of any economic impact possible in this region are those which would still be legal, with proper restrictions, under Wilderness status: hunting, fishing, or grazing up to the limited tolerances of the region's ecosystem. Thus it seems that local concerns about adverse economic impact are not the result of informa concern.

In short, from the viewpoint both of a working field biologist and of a

Gunnison County landowner/employer concerned for the preservation of the wild resources of central Colorado, I urge that the Bowditch Wilderness be incorporated in the Wilderness System without delay. If I can provide any further useful information, please contact me at once.

Sincerely,
Ward B. Watt
Ward B. Watt, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Biology

(1) Watt *et al.* 1977. *Oecologia* 27:1-22.

(2) Gall, I.F. 1980. Personal communication and manuscript in preparation. Mr. Gall may be addressed further at the Dept. of Biology, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut 06520.

Jim Belsey, Exec. Dir.

COLORADO COUNCIL

1740 High Street Denver, Colorado 80218 (303) 393-0218



Henri Bisson
BLM
P.O. Box 1269
Montrose CO 81401

6/27/80

RECEIVED
JUN 28 1980
BLM MONTROSE DIST.

Dear Mr. Bisson

I have just learned of the proposed
Powderhorn Wilderness and want to express the
full support of CCTC for its inclusion in the
Federal Wilderness System.

While I am not aware of any special
fishery quality in the area, we believe that
ecosystems of this kind are very valuable when
left in their primitive state. In the years to come
the Powderhorn can provide scientific information
and outstanding non-motorized recreation as well
as excellent habitat for a wide diversity of
wildlife species.

Please include these comments in the official
record on this matter

Cordially
Jim Belsey

State Director of BLM, (Wilderness)
PO Box 1269
Montrose, CO.
81401

6/27/80

RECEIVED
JUL 1 1980
BLM, Montrose Dist

Dear Sir,

As you are probably already familiar with man's need for space and unspoiled land, I will not present that aspect of our problem. I would like to point out the Powderhorn area as having, especially, wild and welcome character. It is primitive and carved with glacial forms and cirques along with a spectacular view of the nearby San Juan Mountains.

Please consider and support all 44,951 acres of Wilderness proposal. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely yours,
Margaret Thomas

Margaret Thomas
6412 S. KING DR
CHGO., IL
60637

4435 Bunker St
San Diego, CA. 92107
June 28, 1980

BLM, Wilderness
PO Box 308
Buxie, MT. 59701
Dear Sir,

RECEIVED
JUL 2 1980
BLM, Montrose Dist

The Bureau of Land Management's recommendation for 44,951 acres of the Powderhorn is suitable for wilderness in a good one! The Powderhorn is not only large, but is a little disturbed area of flat alpine tundra. It is scenic and primitive and surely is well qualified to be designated as wilderness. The lakes and the fine view of the mountains should be protected.

Sincerely,
Margaret Christoph

1312 Apache
Richardson, Texas 75080
9/26/80

RECEIVED

JUL 3 1980

BLM, Montrose Dist.

BLM, Wilderness
POB 1269 Montrose, Co, 81401

Dear Sirs

I support the BLM recommendation
of 44,951 acres of the Powderhorn
as suitable for wilderness.

Don Purinton
Don Purinton
Don Purinton

JUNE 28, 1980

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WILDERNESS INVENTORY & REVIEW
Box 1269
MONTROSE, COLORADO 81401

RECEIVED

JUL 3 1980

BLM, Montrose Dist.

RE: POWDERHORN INSTANT STUDY AREA

DEAR BLM,

I FULLY SUPPORT YOUR RECOMMENDATION
OF 44,951 ACRES (OF THE POWDERHORN)
AS SUITABLE FOR WILDERNESS. THIS
POWDERHORN WILDERNESS BELONGS IN THE
WILDERNESS SYSTEM OF OUR PUBLIC
LANDS.

SINCERELY,

John S. ...

1405 WEST 4TH ST.
L.A., CA. 90017

224 Broadway
San Diego, Cal., 92102
June 28, 1980

B.L.M. Wilderness
Box ~~1269~~ 1269
Montrose, Colo., 81401

RECEIVED

JUL 3 1980

B.L.M. Montrose Dist.

Dear Sir/Madam-

The Powderhorn area in the Montrose district offers some of the most spectacular scenery in all of Colorado, certainly some of the finest on BLM lands. Accordingly, it deserves inclusion as wilderness, and therefore I heartily support the BLM recommendation of 44,951 acres of Powderhorn wilderness.

Sincerely,
Frank Norris

BLM, Wilderness
P. O. Box 1269
Montrose, Colorado 81401

RECEIVED
JUL 3 1980
B.L.M. Montrose Dist.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to indicate my support and approval for your recommendation of Wilderness designation for 44,951 acres of the Powderhorn.

We cannot afford to lose this last chance to save some of our most beautiful and ecologically significant areas, and surely this gem of alpine tundra (comparatively rare in the lower 48 States) should have first priority.

Future generations will be eternally grateful to BLM for preserving for them this escape from the asphalt jungles of the 21st century!

Sincerely yours,

Willua Kraemlein
Willua Kraemlein

WILLUA KRAEMLEIN
4040 GALE CORTA
MONTROSE, CO. 81401
25712

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Montrose, CO

81701

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June 30, 1980

BLM, Wilderness
POB 1267
Montrose, CO 81401

Dear Sir:

We strongly support the BLM recommendation of 44,951 acres as a Powderhorn Wilderness. It is the largest and the least disturbed flat alpine tundra in the lower 48 and offers unrivalled wilderness experience and cross country trails.

Yours truly, *Ethel W. Thornley*

Mr. & Mrs. R. Poland, Mr. & Mrs. L. Harwood, Ms. D. Farman, Mr. & Mrs. G. Paddock, Mr. & Mrs. R. Anst, Mr. & Mrs. J. Kennedy, Mr. & Mrs. C. Wilkins, Mrs. S. Leslie, Mr. & Mrs. A. Morency, Mr. & Mrs. S. Park

RECEIVED
JUN 30 1980
BLM, Montrose Dist

899 Pearl Street
 Denver, Colorado
 June 30, 1980

Mr. Henri Bisson
 Project Manager
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 P. O. Box 1269
 Montrose, Colorado 81401

Dear Mr. Bisson:

With reference to the proposed Powderhorn Wilderness area, I would like to make my strong support of this proposed area made part of the hearing record on this issue.

Sincerely,



Martin H. Finkelstein

/mc

cc: Representative Ray Kogovsek
 House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515

AtlanticRichfieldCompany

555 17th Street
 Denver, Colorado 80202
 Telephone 303 575 7577
 J. R. Mitchell
 Public Lands Coordinator

July 1, 1980

Mr. Henri Bisson
 District Manager
 Montrose District Office
 Bureau of Land Management
 P. O. Box 1269
 Montrose, Colorado 81401

RE: Powderhorn Draft Wilderness Suitability Report

Dear Mr. Bisson:

Atlantic Richfield Company welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Wilderness Suitability Report prepared in connection with the Bureau of Land Management's proposed Wilderness designation for the Powderhorn Primitive Area of Southwestern Colorado. Atlantic Richfield is concerned about the environment and supports programs for its protection. The Company also supports programs for the development of urgently needed domestic energy resources. We firmly believe that environmental and energy development programs can be conducted in harmony and without any long term damage to the environment. Accordingly, we strongly urge the Bureau of Land Management to include all public lands which have energy or mineral resource potential, such as the Powderhorn Primitive Area, in the multiple use category.

Following are our specific comments on the Powderhorn Primitive Area's geothermal and carbon dioxide potential. The area involved in the DEIS is located on the north flank of a mid-Tertiary thermal event, the San Juan volcanics. Evidence of residual heat is found in a series of warm springs that ring the San Juan volcanic field. The USGS has classified many areas in the San Juans as being valuable for geothermal resources (see enclosed map).

The DEIS implies that there is a lack of faulting within the study area to provide for the movement of geothermal fluids. In fact, there is evidence that a major east-west fracture zone, the Swaffels fracture zone, intersects the ring fracture system within the southern portion of the study area. This area is currently covered by outflow volcanic deposits.



Mr. Henri Bisson
Re: Powderhorn Draft Wilderness Suitability Report
July 1, 1980
Page 2

51 The subsurface potential is unknown and has not been evaluated.

In addition to the geothermal potential, there is substantial carbon dioxide potential. Carbon dioxide is a common and abundant gas associated with volcanic activity. During the several million years that the San Juan volcanic field was active, considerable CO₂ was generated. It is possible that CO₂ in commercial quantities was trapped within the fractured volcanics and granite of this area. The absence of sedimentary rocks does not preclude the occurrence of CO₂.

The use of CO₂ in the enhanced recovery of oil is an important technique for increasing the production of oil from older fields. Exploration for carbon dioxide is actively being conducted by several companies in southwestern Colorado. The recent announcement by Shell of the discovery of over one trillion cubic feet of CO₂ in the McElmo nose area of Colorado points out the potential for the discovery of CO₂ reserves in association with Tertiary volcanics.

51 The potential for the exploration and development of both geothermal and carbon dioxide resources from within this geologic environment should be acknowledged in the OMS and exploration should be encouraged by the development of a multiple use plan that would provide for open access for exploration. At this time, the subsurface resources potential of the Powderhorn Primitive Areas is unknown and will continue to be until additional exploration work is done. Adoption of a multiple use plan for this area will provide the opportunity to explore and develop the resources contained in the area.

Sincerely,



J. R. Mitchell

JRN/CM:bbf
Attachment

51 Although carbon dioxide deposits may be associated with volcanic activity, the mineral survey which was conducted by the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey in the recent Study Area does not show any presence of carbon dioxide in the study area. Copies of the mineral report has been added to the Final EIS. Additionally, searches of existing geologic information shows very little similarity between the McElmo nose deposit and the Powderhorn area.

The Wilderness Act, which would be a guiding document for management if the area were designated wilderness, does permit prospecting and gathering of mineral information in a manner compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environment.

BOZEMAN INTERNAL MEDICINE ASSOCIATES

300 NORTH WILSON
BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59718
TELEPHONE 426-887-8823RICHARD O. TENNEY M.D.
CARDIOLOGIST

ROBERT A. MATHIAS M.D.

6/24/83

JUL 7 1983

B.I.M. Mont 000 1983

John L. Hesse
01303 Rocky Dr
#12
Gard, Md. 20844
June 20, 1983

Dear Dr. Mathias,

I wish to offer my complete support ^{to} your B.I.M. recommendation of 44,951 acres of the Powderhorn area. This area has outstanding qualities which warrant management as a wilderness area. Having backpacked in the area, I commend B.I.M. for recognizing the wilderness potential of the area. This alpha tundra area is certainly unrivaled in 49 contiguous states. Please keep me apprised of any future developments concerning this area.

Sincerely,
John L. Hesse

52

Dear Sir:

I live in Montana and have been through the process of evaluating the Ancient Study Area we have the Bear Trap Canyon in Montana which was recommended for wilderness by B.I.M. & I am satisfied that their decision was appropriate and feel your analysis of the Powderhorn in Colorado would be equally as objective. If you favor wilderness for the Powderhorn, I would agree with your decision. Please make my letter part of the official record covering 44,951 acres for wilderness designation.

Sincerely
Richard O Tenney M.D.



Wilderness Workshop of the Colorado Open Space Council

2239 East Colfax Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80206 • (303) 999-9111

Henri Blissen, Project Manager
Powderhorn Wilderness Environmental Statement
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1269
Montrose, Colorado 81401

June 28, 1980

JUN 29 1980

JUN 28 1980

Dear Sir,

I am commenting on the BLM's suitability report and draft environmental statement on the proposed Powderhorn Wilderness for the Wilderness Division of the Colorado Open Space Council and the Colorado BLM Wilderness Coalition, a coalition of 23 groups from across Colorado that is dedicated to preserving some of Colorado's finest BLM lands.

We strongly support the recommendation of BLM that 44,951 acres of the Powderhorn Wilderness and contiguous BLM lands be proposed to the President and to Congress for designation as Wilderness and inclusion into the National Wilderness. Our reasons for supporting Wilderness designation are as follows:

- 1) The area meets all of the criteria established by the Wilderness Act for a Wilderness Area. It is larger than 5,000 acres, is substantially natural, offers outstanding primitive recreation and solitude, and contains excellent and unique supplemental values.
- 2) The area contains a fragile, uniquely large expanse of alpine tundra that warrants protection on ecological and scientific grounds.
- 3) The area is a popular recreation area whose use is increasing rapidly, and Wilderness management can best protect its resources.
- 4) The area is highly scenic, has outstanding geological features, and contains a great variety of wildlife, and
- 5) There are few, indeed minimal, conflicts with wilderness designation. No commercial mineral potential exists, as attested to by the U.S. Geological Survey. Potential timber production in the Powderhorn is low compared to the surrounding national forest, and is far outweighed by the values of resource preservation. Grazing will continue where it does not degrade the land, and will not be affected by Wilderness designation. Therefore, we believe that the highest value of the Powderhorn is as an area preserved in its natural state as designated Wilderness.

For these reasons, we support the eventual designation of the Powderhorn Primitive Area and adjacent BLM lands as Wilderness.

Thank you.

Norman J. Mullen
Norman J. Mullen

cc. Hon. Ray Kavovsek
Sen. Gary Hart
Charles W. Lascher

printed on 100% recycled paper

Fish Camp, Ca. 97623
June 28, 1980

BLM, Wilderness
P O Box 1269
Montrose, Co. 81401

Gentlemen:

We want to thank you for your advocacy of a 44,591 acre wilderness area for the Powderhorn country.

This recommendation is surely the best that could have been considered, and we support your decision whole-heartedly.

Sincerely,

Frank A. McClmonds
Frank A. McClmonds
D and H F McClmonds

JUN 28 1980
BLM Montrose Dist.

Dear Sir,

We would like to support the recommendation of 44,951 acres of the Powderhorn area in Colorado as wilderness. This beautiful flat alpine tundra with its view of the San Juan Mountains is quite deserving

Yours Sincerely,

David J. Gasten
Patricia S. Platt

RECEIVED

JUL 7 '80

B.L.M. Montrose Dist.

David Gasten and Patricia Platt
152 Central Ave.
Denver, N.C. 87537

Edward F. Heimers
F-3 Gateshead Rd.
New Hartford, N. Y. 13413

B.L.M. Wilderness
P.O. Box 1269
Montrose Co-81401

RECEIVED
6/21/80 5L 7:50
B.L.M. Montrose Dist.

Re: Powderhorn Wilderness Area

Gentlemen,

I strongly recommend that you properly designate the Wilderness Classification 44,951 acres of the Powderhorn Area.

This will include the primitive area plus contiguous wild lands. As you know this is one of the largest and least disturbed areas of flat alpine tundra in the lower 48.

It is imperative that the full area be protected - fully - totally or permanently.

Yours truly,
Edward F. Heimers

9821 NE 53rd Street
 Lighthouse Point, Florida 33064
 June 29, 1980

RECEIVED
 JUN 30 7 50
 BLM, Montrose Dist

Bureau of Land Management (Wilderness)
 Box 1269
 Montrose, Colorado 81401

Dear Sirs:

I support the establishment of a 44,951 acre Powderhorn wilderness. It is important that one of the largest areas of high alpine tundra be preserved in its natural state.

Sincerely,

Paul Beard
 Paul Beard

Henry Peck
 534 Bookwalter
 New Carlisle, Ohio, 4534

June 30, 1980

RECEIVED
 JUN 30 7 50
 BLM, Montrose Dist

Bureau of Land Management
 Wilderness
 Box 1269
 Montrose, Colorado, 81401

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to support the BLM recommendation of 44,951 acres of the Powderhorn as suitable for wilderness in Colorado. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Henry Peck
 Henry Peck

BLM Wilderness 60
 P.O. Box 1269
 Montrose, Colorado 81401

Dear Sir:

Dr. Wilton is report to the Powderhorn
 Wilderness proposal. This wild unique alpine area
 in drainage of snow-capped peaks of the Powderhorn
 System. It is a part of a Powderhorn Wilderness
 of 44,951 acres.

It is a small area of wilderness. It is one
 of the few large tracts of land left in the
 West. This highly scenic alpine area should
 be recommended for the National Wilderness
 System. I am that you support a 44,951
 acre Powderhorn Wilderness proposal.

RECEIVED

JUN 7 1980

B.L.M. Montrose Dist.

Handwritten report
 about E.A. Cronin
 5014 31st Ave
 Montrose, Colorado
 81417



Wilderness Workshop of the Colorado Open Space Council

2230 East Colfax Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80206 • (303) 399-4110

Henri Nilsson, Project Manager
 Powderhorn Wilderness Statement
 Bureau of Land Management
 P.O. Box 1269
 Montrose, Colorado 81401

June 30, 1980

I, Norman Melles, am commenting on the BLM's suitability report and draft
 impact statement for the Wilderness Workshop of the Colorado Open Space Council
 and the Colorado BLM Wilderness Coalition, which represents 23 organizations
 throughout Colorado.

We have longstanding interest in the Powderhorn area, having supported its
 Primitive classification. We are pleased to be involved in its wilderness deter-
 mination.

We fully support the BLM's recommendation that 44,951 acres of the Powder-
 horn Primitive Area and contiguous BLM managed lands be proposed to the President
 and Congress for designation as Wilderness and inclusion into the National Wilder-
 ness Preservation System. We base our support for the BLM proposal on the follow-
 ing reasons:

- 1) The area is a fragile, uniquely large expanse of alpine tundra that
 warrants protection on ecological grounds.
- 2) The area is a very popular recreation area, and wilderness management
 will best protect its resources.
- 3) The Powderhorn is of great scientific importance due to its expanse of
 tundra, and is best left undeveloped.
- 4) There are few, indeed minimal, conflicts with wilderness. No commercial
 mineral potential exists. Timber in the Powderhorn is a small fraction
 of the surrounding National Forest, and is far outweighed by the values
 of research/preservation. Grazing will continue where it does not degrade
 the land. Therefore, the highest value of the Powderhorn is as an area
 preserved in its natural state.

For these reasons, we support the eventual designation of the Powderhorn
 Primitive Area and adjacent lands as Wilderness.

Thank you,
Norman J. Melles
 Norman J. Melles

cc. Hon. Ray Kogovsek
 Charles W. Luscher

6824-A Sawtelle Way
 Sacramento, Calif., 95826
 June 30, 1980

Bureau of Land Management
 WILDERNESS
 P.O. Box 1269
 Montrose, Colorado, 81401

RE: The Powderhorn Tundra

Gentlemen:

I heartily support your recommendation for the preservation of 44,951 acres of the Powderhorn as Wilderness.

Please! Please, I implore you, go ahead with your recommendation and designate this area as Wilderness.

For this scenic and spectacular area of alpine tundra and its contiguous wild land must be kept as part of our heritage of great natural resources.

Sincerely yours,

Marjorie M. Ryan
 Marjorie M. Ryan

RECEIVED
 JUN 7 1980
 BLM, Montrose Dist.

13
 63

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in support of your wilderness proposal of 45,000 acres in the Powderhorn area. I support all U.S. Forest Service wilderness proposals and BLM proposals because so much of this country's ideas were built around wilderness.

Texas has no Federal lands from which to come wilderness areas so we must support areas in Colorado.

Thank you,

Byron Brewer
 2801 S. Austin #215
 Aomille, TX 79109

RECEIVED

JUN 7 1980

BLM, Montrose Dist.

June 30, 1980

WILDERNESS
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1269
Montrose, CO 81401

Dear Sirs:

I am simply writing to express my strong support and appreciation for your BLM recommendation of 44,951 acres of the Powderhorn area as suitable for wilderness designation.

As you know, this superb pristine area amply meets all of the Wilderness Act's criteria. It needs and deserves wilderness protection.

Indeed, as one of the largest and least disturbed flat alpine tundra areas in the lower 48 states, the Powderhorn area offers unique attributes for the wilderness system. This unusually scenic terrain offers more than enough room for the "opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation" envisaged in the Wilderness Act.

Please support and fully implement the laudable 44,951-acre Powderhorn Wilderness Area proposal.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Richard Spotts
Richard Spotts

6330 Havenside Drive, #5
Sacramento, CA 95831

RECEIVED
JUL 7 80
BLM, Montrose Dist.

July 1, 1980

Dear BLM,

I am writing concerning the Proposed Powderhorn Wilderness Area in Colorado.

This highly scenic area contains one of the largest and least disturbed areas of just alpine tundra in the lower 48 states.

It also has glacial cirques and lakes, spectacular views, and offers outstanding opportunity for cross-country travel.

Therefore, I support the BLM recommendation of 44,951 acres of the Powderhorn as suitable for wilderness.

RECEIVED

JUL 7 80

BLM, Montrose Dist.

Yours truly,
Peter Dietz
150 S. Beach #285
San Helens, Ca. 96631

RECEIVED
JUL 7 1980
BLM, Montrose Dist.

George A. Bridges
3124 Syropy Drive
Sacramento, CA 95821

July 2, 1980

BLM, Wilderness,
POB 1269, Montrose, CO 81401

Dear Sirs:

We are writing to express our support for the Bureau of Land Management's recommendation of 44,951 acres of the Powderhorn as suitable for wilderness. We hope to visit this area in August of this year.

Sincerely,

George A. Bridges
George A. Bridges

July 2, 1980

RECEIVED
JUL 7 1980
BLM, Montrose Dist.

Bureau of Land Management (Wilderness)
Box 1269
Montrose, CO 81401

Dear Sir: re - SUPPORT FOR WILDERNESS

I would like you to know that I do support your recommendation for Wilderness ---

44,951 acres of the POWDERHORN Area.

Thank you for helping to save all possible of our wild desert heritage.

Sincerely,

C. Balloun
C. Balloun
4840 Santa Monica # 20
San Diego, CA 92107

Bureau of Land Management
Box 1259, Montrose, Colorado 81401

11

July 13, 1980

Dear Sir,

I strongly support your recommendation for a 44,951 acre Powderhorn Wetlands area. With the special science and experience alone available the proposed area would provide your bird, botanizing and geobotany survey. We need places like Powderhorn to escape the noise, pressure and ugliness of our "civilized" jungles. Also the massive species of such places should be allowed on undisturbed habitat for their survival.

Sincerely yours
Alan Passano
5425 S. Blackstone Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60615

70

Dear BLM Director,

Thank you for the recommendation of 44,951 acres for withdrawal in the Powderhorn area of Colorado. You've done a fine job on this Southwest study and certainly this spectacular, undisturbed and unique wilderness status!

With this letter I would like to go on record as supporting your recommendation of "suitable for withdrawal" for Powderhorn. Please stick with it. I would also like to ask that you please do all you can to keep this area on its way to full wilderness designation.

RECEIVED

JUL 14 '80

B.L.M. Montrose Dist.

Thank you
Cecilia Chman,
18800 Beverly Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio
44135

RECEIVED

JUL 16 '80

B.L.M. Montrose

July 7, 1980

RECEIVED

JUL 8 80

BLM, Montrose Dist.

Dear Sirs:

I am writing concerning the BLM recommendation for a 44,951 acre Poudrehorn Wilderness. This alpine area is certainly deserving of Wilderness designation. I fully support the BLM plan for official Wilderness status for this area. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bryg Foote

726 N. 91 Plaza, # 111

Omaha, NE 68114

July 5, 1980

Bureau of Land Management (Wilderness)
Box 1269
Montrose, CO 81401

I am writing to express my support for the BLM recommendation of 44,951 acres of the Poudrehorn area as suitable for wilderness.

This is an extremely scenic area and is one of the largest and least disturbed areas of flat alpine tundra in the U.S.

Please keep the recommended total of 44,951 acres of wilderness for the Poudrehorn.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Kathryn A. Deane
Kathy Deane

2020 N. 16th, #5
Bismarck, North Dakota 58001

RECEIVED

JUL 10 80

BLM, Montrose Dist.

Dear BLM:

We are writing to support your recommendation of 44,951 acres for wilderness in the Powderhorn area. We have never been there but it sure sounds beautiful -- and if it gets saved we'll still be able to see it.

Thankyou,
John + Meri Koehn
4347 Fondulac Dr.
Singer, WI. 53036

74

RECEIVED

JUL 10 1980

61, Irving Ave.
Hempstead, N.Y. 11547
07039
July 7th. 1980.
R.L.M. Montrose Dist.

BIM.

Dear Sirs,

As a citizen and wilderness lover I want to inform you of my support for your recommendation of the Powderhorn as suitable for wilderness. The designation of 44,951 acres is quite adequate.

Sincerely,

Pat Jordan

Patricia Jordano .

RECEIVED 77

JUL 21 '80

U.S. MAIL

464 E. 3rd N.
Green River, WY 82935
July 17, 1980



COLLEEN GOODING
COORDINATOR

Oregon High Desert
Study Group

307 N.E. Fargo
Portland, Oregon 97212
July 2, 1980

Bureau of Land Management
Wilderness Study Team
Box 1269
Montrose, Colorado 81401

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the 75 member Oregon High Desert Study Group, I wish to add support to the Bureau of Land Management recommendation to designate 44,951 acres of the Powderhorn as suitable for wilderness. This highly scenic glacial area will be a worthy addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

I wish to thank the Bureau for protecting this area which is a part of our desert wilderness heritage.

Sincerely yours,

Colleen Gooding

Colleen Gooding

TO: Bureau of Land Management - Wilderness
P.O.B. 1269, Montrose, CO. 81401

FROM: Jay H. Vest

SUBJECT: Wilderness suitability Reports (D.I.F)
for Powderhorn I.S.A.

Please send me a copy of the draft suitability report for the Powderhorn I.S.A. Also I'd like to request any information concerning this area which was previously released. Moreover, I wish to make a study of all identification and classification materials which you may have released prior to this request. Additionally, please keep me informed on future wilderness issues which occur on your district.

2.

Thank you.

Finally, I'd like to express
my support for your recommendation
of 44,951 acres of the Powderhorn
as suitable for wilderness.

Jay H. Vesper

July 16, 1980

78

Dear Mr. Bisson:

We are dropping you this note to let you know that
we are strongly in support of the BLM's Powderhorn
Wilderness proposal.

We believe that area is truly deserving of Wilderness
designation.

Sincerely,

Beverly and Tony Baker

7/21/80

Kent Susie Francis
820 7th Ave.
Durango, Colo. 81301

REC'D

JUL 23 '80

B.L.M. Montrose Dep

Mr. Henri Bisson
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1269
Montrose, Colo. 81401

Dear Mr. Bisson:

I am writing BLM to express my strong support for the Poudrehorn Primitive Area to be classified as a Wilderness Area.

As a life-long resident of Southwest Colorado — and a fourth generation native of Colorado, I feel areas such as the Poudrehorn that are rich in wildlife and that have remained in a general state of "wildness" should be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

With the tremendous growth pressures facing Western Colorado due to the energy situation, I feel it is even more important than ever that we try to preserve some of our heritage and offer these areas of solitude to the future residents that will besige Colorado in the next 10-20 years.

My family has visited the Poudrehorn Primitive Area in the past and feel it has the qualifications to be set aside as a wilderness area.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this very important endeavor.

Sincerely,
Ken Francis
Susie Francis

July 21, 1980

BLM, Wilderness
POB 1269
Montrose, Co. 81401

I would like to voice my support of the BLM recommendation of 44,951 acres of the Powderhorn for wilderness protection.

This area seems to have exceptional qualities and I hope will be protected.

Sincerely,

Margel B. Johnson
Margel B. Johnson
Route 2, Box 300
River Falls, Wi. 54022

RECEIVED

JUL 23 '80

B.L.M. Montrose Dist.

Dear Mr. Bishop:

7/18/80

As a BLM spokesman, I want to thank your agency for recommending Powderhorn Summit Area as the first BLM wilderness area in our state.

I hope to see one of the Powderhorn land my family owns as I have long known it to be one of the greatest wilderness areas in the state and I have knowledgeable back-packer friends who consider it "Next". It is the only place of land area and outdoor recreation I would not support it less highly. Thank you again.
Nina Johnson, 447 2th, Boulder, CO 80502

RECEIVED

JUL 28 '80

B.L.M. Montrose Dist

July 23, 1980

The Bureau of Land Management
Box 1269
Montrose, Colorado 81401

Dear People:

I support your recommendations on setting up 44,951 acres of the Powderhorn as a wilderness area. It is important for the U.S. to preserve as much wilderness as possible for the people. We need for these areas to be protected because not everyone understands the importance of the wilderness areas. Please finalize these recommendations for this area as a wilderness area as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Charlotte A. Sherrick
Charlotte A. Sherrick
2017 M. Meriday Ln
Santa Ana, CA 92706

Dear Sir,

I have been back poring over a couple years now as to how to save the wilderness since I was a very young boy. I would certainly be happy if some day I could visit the Powderhorn some day and hope that it has not been destroyed by developers. I am in complete support of a BLM recommendation of 44,951 acres of the Powderhorn as suitable for wilderness.

RECEIVED

JUL 28 '80

B.L.M. Montrose Dist

E. P. Gaden

BLM
Montrose, Colo.

RECEIVED

JUL 29 '80

BLM, Montrose Dist.

45 Prx 516
Mcken, (116
80401

Dear Mr Bisson

I would like to express my support for the Powderhorn Wilderness proposal.

The San Juan area needs protection now, in 20 years it will be as popular and renowned as the Swiss alps. It is a unique area w/ 60 peaks over 14,000 feet, as thin sure you are aware. Lake City, Coway, Durango are tourist areas now and will become more attractive as the quality of other areas are diminished by development.

I congratulate you for the foresight shown in this proposal.

Sincerely,
Connie Kay

July 28, 1980

REC'D

AUG 1 1980

BLM, Montrose Dist.

BLM (Wilderness)
Box 1869
Montrose, Co. 81401

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to express my strong support for BLM's recommendation that 144,951 acres in the Powderhorn area be designated as wilderness. I hope that you will push for Congressional approval of ~~these~~ this new area as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Dennis Culp

Dennis Culp
131 Franklin St.
Boston, Ma. 02134

Route 1, Box 250
Stoneman, Virginia 24401
Aug 4, 1980

RECEIVED
AUG 11 '80
B.L.M. Montrose Dist.

B.L.M. address
POB 1269
Montrose, Colorado
81401
Good People:

I would like to express
my most enthusiastic support for a 44,951
acre Poudre canon wilderness for Colorado
The special character of this area as an
extreme alpine Tundra makes it an ideal
wilderness site.

Sincerely yours,
Dietrich Muelker
Rete T.F. Muelker

Dear BLM Staff _____ Tuesday 7/29/80

I am writing to give my support and urge
you strongly to carry thru the proposal of
44,951 acres of old Poudre canon area as wilderness.
It would be a valuable addition to the National
Wilderness preservation system as scenic, recreational,
educational and inspirational values.

Thank you and good luck in the wilderness review
Sincerely, Michael V Glavin
31 Maple Ave
Chappaqua, NY 10514

RECEIVED
AUG 1 '80
B.L.M. Montrose Dist

August 15, 1980

Hello Mrs. Bisson,

RECEIVED
AUG 16 80

R.L.M. Monroe Dist

Thanks for your Powderhorn
recommendation! Having ~~traced~~ ^{traced} the area
extensively and studied carefully the relevant
documents it seemed to me you could do nothing
but go for Wilderness. However, it took course
to do so!

I now hope you will make yourself
known to ^{the Forest Service} ~~the Forest Service~~ when the planning decision on the
Cannibal Plateau comes up. The two areas should
both be Wilderness and your forefall comments
could have tremendous impact.

Jake Rothmy
JAKE ROTHMY
P.O. Box # 495
BOULDER
COLORADO
80301

100

August 20, 1980

RECEIVED
AUG 25 80

R.L.M. Monroe Dist

SEN. Wildermont
P.O. 1260
Montrose, Colorado 81401

Gentlemen:-

We are writing to express our SUPPORT for the SEN
Recommendation of 44,951 acres of the Powderhorn, as suitable
for Wilderness.

We certainly believe this deserving area should be added to
the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Thank you.

Yours very truly,
J. M. & M. E. Kelly

Dr and Mrs John E Kelly

1811 Warwick Ave W 27-3

Warwick RI 02880

THELMA C. DU VINAGE
3316 NORTH VERNON STREET
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22207

80

To R.M. Williams
President, Wilderness

August 21, 1980

RECEIVED

AUG 25 '80

B.L.M. Manrose Dist.

In writing to you a comment on the
B.L.M. recommendation that the 44,951 acres
of the Powderhorn, various some area of
the area is included in wilderness
designation, as it is so richly diverse, I am
skeptical that the unique qualities of this
particular area meet the requirements.

I would also like to comment
on my concern that the criteria used in
wilderness designation were so limited that
many other areas deserving designation were
not included

Thelma C. Du Vinage

GENTLEMEN:

7-16-80

LARGE DESIGNATION OF THE
ALPINE AREA OF 44,951 ACRES TO
THE POWDERHORN AS WILDERNESS
A PRIMITIVE AREA ADJACENT WITH
CONTIGUOUS WILD LAND

SINCERELY

Maxwell B. Kernick

91

TABLE 5-3

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC HEARINGS

The order of speakers at the public hearings follows:

Tuesday, May 27, 1980
Montrose, Colorado

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Lillian Erickson	Self

Wednesday, May 28, 1980
Gunnison, Colorado

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Robert Dolan	Self
Theo Colburn	Self
Ken Watters	Gunnison County
Stan Smock	Self

Thursday, May 29, 1980
Lake City, Colorado

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Glen W. Bowers	Self
Verna A. Carl	Self
Carol M. Drake	Self
C. A. Mendenhall	Self
Dot Main	Self
Wayne Hopkins	Self
John Parker*	Self
Bud McDonald	Self
Norma Swanson*	Self
Joe Youmans*	Self
Mike Doody	Self
Lowell B. Swanson*	Self
Bob Whinnery	Self
John Benvenuto*	Self
James Skinner	Self
Mariene Zanetell	Congressman Kogovsek
Jim Ryan	Self
Dan Hall	Self
Michael J. Ronco	Douglas Stutz
Ann Maxwell	Self
Byrne Smith	Self
D. W. Macomber	Self
Dan Miiski	Self

TABLE 5-3 (Continued)

Shella Main	Self
Pete Main	Self
Veron Carl*	Self
Ruth Trousdale	Self
Gene Trousdale	Self
Ruth Trousdale	Self

* Response made by BLM.

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PROCEEDINGS

HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Ladies and gentlemen,
May I have your attention, please. We will now begin the
hearings on the Powderhorn Wilderness Draft Environmental
Impact Statement and the Powderhorn Wilderness Suitability
Report. My name is Patricia McDonald. I am with the Office
of Hearings and Appeals, Department of the Interior. I have
been asked to preside over this hearing.

A hearing panel has been designated to receive
your comments. The members of the panel are:

Bud Curtis, Area Manager, Gunnison Basin
Resource Area, Montrose District, Bureau of Land
Management, Montrose, Colorado;

Jon Spring, Division of Resources, Montrose
District, Bureau of Land Management, Montrose,
Colorado;

Lonce Nimmo -- Is that right?

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MR. NIMMO: Nimmo.

HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Nimmo. Sorry.
Planning and Environmental Coordination Staff,
Montrose District, Bureau of Land Management,
Montrose, Colorado.

This hearing is a public hearing for the Bureau
of Land Management, Department of the Interior. The hearing
has been scheduled to receive comments on the Draft Environmental
Impact Statement and Powderhorn Wilderness Suitability Report
prepared by the Department of the Interior concerning the
proposed wilderness designation of the Powderhorn Primitive
Area and certain contiguous lands in the Montrose District,
Gunnison and Hinsdale counties in Colorado.

The members of the hearing panel are here to
listen to your views. They are not here to answer questions
while the hearing is in session. They may, however, ask
clarifying questions at the conclusion of your remarks. The
panel will be available during recesses in the hearings, and
they will at that time welcome and attempt to answer any
questions that anyone might have. A formal response to your
comments and questions will be contained in the final Environ-
mental Impact Statement.

An official reporter will make a verbatim
transcript of the hearing. To ensure a complete and accurate
record, it is absolutely necessary that only one person speak

1 at a time, and that everyone remain as quiet as possible while
2 the hearing is in progress. During the hearing, no one will
3 be recognized other than the designated speaker and members
4 of the hearing panel.

5 This hearing is scheduled for tonight in
6 Montrose, tomorrow night in Gunnison, and Thursday night in
7 Lake City. The speakers will be called in the order shown
8 on the list that was distributed prior to the opening of
9 the hearing.

10 That list hasn't been distributed, has it?
11 There is no sign-up list?

12 MR. NIMMO: There hasn't been anybody sign up
13 for any of the hearings.

14 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Okay.

15 All parties will be expected to confine their
16 remarks to ten minutes or less. This time limitation will be
17 enforced in order to ensure that everyone is treated in an
18 equal manner. Please state whether your remarks are directed
19 to the Environmental Impact Statement or the Suitability
20 Report.

21 Written comments will be accepted in lieu of
22 oral presentations or as supplements to oral statements. They
23 can be submitted during the course of the hearing or at any
24 time on or before July 1st, 1980, insofar as the Environmental
25 Impact Statement is concerned.

1 If written comments are not submitted today,
2 they should be addressed to the District Manager, Montrose
3 District Office, Bureau of Land Management, P. O. Box 1269,
4 Montrose, Colorado 81401, or to me, Patricia McDonald,
5 Office of Hearings and Appeals, Room 301, Federal Building,
6 Gallup, New Mexico 87301.

7 All written statements that are timely received
8 will be included as a part of the hearing record. Written
9 statements will be given the same weight as oral statements made
10 at the hearing.

11 For those who are going to make an oral presenta-
12 tion, it will be helpful if the reporter can obtain a copy of
13 any prepared statement that you might have prior to the
14 presentation of the statement. If you have an extra copy,
15 will you please give it to the reporter just prior to your
16 presentation. If you do not have an extra copy, it will still
17 be helpful if you can leave any written statement that you
18 might have with the reporter after your presentation. She has
19 assured me that if you will place your name and address on the
20 statement, she will return it to you.

21 To the extent that time is available after the
22 presentation of oral statements by those on the list of speakers,
23 we will give others present an opportunity to be heard. If
24 there are any parties who are not on the speakers' list who
25 desire to be heard, they should register at the registration

1 table in the back of the auditorium.

2 The record of this hearing, including all timely
3 filed written statements, will be available for public
4 inspection at the Colorado State Office, Bureau of Land
5 Management, Colorado State Bank Building, Denver, Colorado.

6 Copies of the transcript of this hearing can
7 be obtained by making arrangements with the reporter. In
8 addition, copies of the transcript and copies of all written
9 statements can be obtained from the Colorado State Office,
10 Bureau of Land Management.

11 Does anyone wish to speak?

12 Yes. Please state your name.

13 MS. LILL ERICKSON: My name is Lill Erickson.

14 After visiting the Powderhorn Primitive Area
15 and reviewing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, it is
16 my opinion the Powderhorn Area will benefit the majority of
17 Americans by being given wilderness classification. I recom-
18 mend Alternative One, designation of the primitive area and
19 4,471 contiguous acres.

20 The Powderhorn area has been managed since 1973
21 to allow ecological processes to occur naturally, unaffected
22 by man, which is very similar to the management it would receive
23 if designated wilderness.

24 Two resource uses are historically and presently
25 going on. They are grazing and recreation.

1 Grazing use on allotments would not be affected
2 by the implementation of Alternative One; therefore, no
3 economic hardship would result to ranchers.

4 The recreation resource would increase an
5 average of ten percent a year, or 3,365 visitor days annually,
6 resulting in a short-term value of \$22,350, and a long-term
7 value of \$48,210 to recreation oriented portions of the
8 local economy.

9 This economic benefit contrasts the \$2,000
10 value of timber.

11 According to the Bureau of Mines and the U.S.
12 Geological Survey combined reports, the area is overlain
13 with volcanic ash flow of up to 5,000 feet thick, which
14 conceal any possible mineral deposit and would make exploration
15 and extraction extremely costly. Because of this, there has
16 been no recording of mining claims or indications of mining
17 activity.

18 Exploration for geothermal potential was not
19 considered to be significant, and no geothermal leases or
20 applications exist within the proposed area. It is also
21 unlikely that coal, oil or carbon dioxide are present.

22 Other resources of high value are the watershed,
23 wildlife and visual resources. These resources would benefit
24 from wilderness designation.

25 Because of these reasons, I recommend the

1 Powderhorn be given wilderness protection. The vast majority
2 of Americans could utilize the area. Hunters, fishermen,
3 sightseers, hikers, campers, backpackers, crosscountry skiers,
4 bird watchers, photographers all utilize the resources now
5 and will do so in increasing numbers in the future.

6 The designation of the Powderhorn as wilderness
7 will provide these resource users with areas that can be
8 enjoyed, studied, for this generation and other generations
9 to come.

10 I would also like to congratulate the BLM
11 on the complete and unbiased job done on the draft EIS.

12 And I would just like to say that Powderhorn
13 is a beautiful area, and I hope that more people enjoy it.
14 get to see what they will lose, possibly, if it isn't
15 designated.

16 Thank you.

17 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Anyone else?

18 Okay.

19 MR. NINMO: Go ahead and close it.

20 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Let's hold it up a
21 little while and see if anybody comes.

22 MS. ERICKSON: Can we ask questions?

23 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: We can declare it in
24 recess and you can ask questions.

25 It's 7:15. We will be in recess.

1 (Recess.)

2 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: We are going to
3 close the hearing then at 7:28. They will stay here and talk
4 and answer questions, if you want, but since there is no
5 one here to make a statement, we are going to close the record.

6 MR. CURTIS: Are you going to adjourn?

7 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Yes.

8 (Whereupon, at 7:28 p.m., the
9 hearing was adjourned.)

10 - - -

PROCEEDINGS

9
10 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Ladies and gentlemen,
11 may I have your attention, please. We will now begin the
12 hearing on the Powderhorn Wilderness Draft Environmental Impact
13 Statement and the Powderhorn Wilderness Suitability Report.

14 My name is Patricia McDonald. I am with the
15 Office of Hearings and Appeals, Department of the Interior.
16 I have been asked to preside over this hearing.

17 A hearing panel has been designated to receive
18 your comments. The members of the panel are:

19 Bud Curtis, over here, Area Manager, Gunnison
20 Basin Resource Area, Montrose District, Bureau
21 of Land Management, Montrose, Colorado;

22 Jon Sering, over here, Division of
23 Resources, Montrose District, Bureau of Land
24 Management, Montrose, Colorado;

25 and Lance Nimmo, on my left, Planning and

1 Environmental Coordination Staff, Montrose
2 District, Bureau of Land Management, Montrose,
3 Colorado.

4 This hearing is a public hearing for the Bureau
5 of Land Management, Department of the Interior. The hearing
6 has been scheduled to receive comments on the Draft Environ-
7 mental Impact Statement and Powderhorn Wilderness Suitability
8 Report prepared by the Department of the Interior concerning
9 the proposed wilderness designation of the Powderhorn Primitive
10 Area and certain contiguous lands in the Montrose District,
11 Gunnison and Hinsdale counties in Colorado.

12 The members of the panel are here to listen to
13 your views. They are not here to answer questions while the
14 hearing is in session. They may, however, ask clarifying
15 questions at the conclusion of your remarks. The panel members
16 will, however, be available during recesses in the hearing,
17 and they will at that time welcome and attempt to answer any
18 questions that anyone might have. A formal response to your
19 comments and questions will be contained in the Final Environ-
20 mental Impact Statement.

21 An official reporter will make a verbatim
22 transcript of the hearing. To ensure a complete and accurate
23 record, it is absolutely necessary that only one person speak
24 at a time, and that everyone remain as quiet as possible while
25 the hearing is in progress. During the hearing, no one will

1 be recognized other than the designated speaker and members of
2 the hearing panel.

3 This hearing was scheduled last night in
4 Montrose, tonight in Gunnison, and tomorrow night in Lake City.
5 The speakers will be called in the order shown on the list
6 that was distributed prior to the opening of the hearing.

7 All parties will be expected to confine their
8 remarks to ten minutes or less. This time limitation will
9 be enforced in order to ensure that everyone is treated in an
10 equal manner. Please state whether your remarks are directed
11 to the Environmental Impact Statement or the Suitability
12 Report.

13 Written comments will be accepted in lieu of
14 oral presentations or as supplements to oral statements. They
15 can be submitted during the course of the hearing or at any
16 time on or before July 1st, 1980, insofar as the Environmental
17 Impact Statement is concerned.

18 If written comments are not submitted today,
19 they should be addressed to the District Manager, Montrose
20 District Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 1269,
21 Montrose, Colorado 81401, or to me, Patricia McDonald, Office
22 of Hearings and Appeals, Room 301, Federal Building, Gallup,
23 New Mexico 87301.

24 All written statements that are timely received
25 will be included as a part of the hearing record. Written

1 statements will be given the same weight as oral statements
2 made at the hearing.

3 For those who are going to make an oral
4 presentation, it will be helpful if the reporter can obtain
5 a copy of any prepared statement that you might have made
6 prior to the presentation of the statement. If you have an
7 extra copy, will you please give it to the reporter just
8 prior to your presentation. If you do not have an extra copy,
9 it will still be helpful if you can leave any written state-
10 ment that you might have with the reporter after your
11 presentation. She has assured me that if you will place
12 your name and address on the statement, she will return it
13 to you.

14 To the extent that time is available after the
15 presentation of oral statements by those on the list of speakers,
16 we will give others present an opportunity to be heard. If
17 there are any parties who are not on the speakers' list who
18 desire to be heard, they should register at the registration
19 table at the auditorium door.

20 The record of this hearing, including all timely
21 filed written statements, will be available for public
22 inspection at the Colorado State Office, Bureau of Land
23 Management, Colorado State Bank Building, Denver, Colorado.

24 Copies of the transcript of this hearing can
25 be obtained by making arrangements with the reporter. In

1 addition, copies of the transcript and copies of all written
2 statements can be obtained from the Colorado State Office,
3 Bureau of Land Management.

4 Does anyone wish to speak tonight?

5 Okay. Go ahead.

6 MR. ROBERT DOLAN: My name is Robert Dolan,
7 and I live here in Gunnison. Do you need an address?

8 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: It would be better.

9 MR. ROBERT DOLAN: Okay. It's 961 West Virginia.

10 My comments are in support of Alternative No. 1
11 that was in the Impact Statement, which is a designation of
12 the existing primitive area and 4,471 contiguous acres.

13 The reason why I support this is that the
14 Powderhorn has many wilderness characteristics: One, that
15 it is a roadless area; two, it offers excellent opportunity
16 for solitude. It has a great trail network, offering people
17 the opportunity to enjoy dispersed activities. And also, its
18 diverse land forms offer solitude.

19 Of all the wilderness in Colorado, much is
20 very stark topography, not offering ease of recreation,
21 whereas the Powderhorn area includes high plateaus of large
22 flat areas, allowing a view of the surrounding mountains,
23 giving you a 360 degree view of the La Garitas, the Uncompahgres,
24 Grand Mesa, the West Elks, and also the back side of the
25 Collegiates.

1 Another important point, the BLM Powderhorn
2 is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area, which is
3 31,995 acres, and it is called Cannibal Plateau, which is
4 under further study.

5 If the BLM recommends designation of the
6 Powderhorn as a wilderness, there is a good chance that the
7 Forest Service would follow suit, creating a much larger
8 wilderness area. Almost 80,000 acres would be the total.

9 Wilderness is our national heritage, and it
10 is our duty to preserve these last pockets of the frontier
11 for future generations.

12 That's all I have to say.

13 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Thank you.

14 Would anyone else like to speak?

15 Okay. We will adjourn the hearing then, unless
16 another speaker comes. If you want to ask questions of these
17 people, you are welcome to do so.

18 (Recess.)

19 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Would you state your
20 name then, and--

21 MS. THEO COLBURN: My name is Theo Colburn, and
22 I'm a resident of Gunnison.

23 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Okay. If you have an
24 extra copy that you can give to the reporter, that would help.

25 MS. THEO COLBURN: These are just some notes

1 that I scribbled up.

2 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Okay.

3 MS. THEO COLBURN: I thought you were starting
4 at 7:30.

5 First of all, in view of the fact that every
6 major tributary of the Gunnison River is being eyed by large
7 mining activity, and also increased recreation, and probably
8 more timbering, we should consider protecting some of our
9 watersheds, and so, actually wilderness is a method of protect-
10 ing some of our water and our watersheds.

11 At present we do not have a clear idea of what
12 the true toxic effects of all the various chemicals and minerals
13 can be that are being released into our waters and our streams.
14 We are just beginning to realize the effects of many of these
15 minerals and chemicals, and I feel a delay, time--we need more
16 time. And until we know more about the effects of these
17 minerals on people, and livestock and wild animals, I feel
18 we should protect as many of our watersheds as we can. So,
19 one of the positive effects of wilderness is to protect
20 water quality.

21 Also, the present lack of resource conflict in
22 that particular area, which is now being managed as a primitive
23 area, would not be changed much if it were designated as
24 wilderness, but in essence, we just protect the quality of
25 the water in that area for some time.

1 There is a lack of mineral reserves in the area.
2 The timber that is there, the majority of it is presently
3 on steep slopes and unstable soils, and the BLM does not
4 plan to change grazing, according to your book, and the
5 economic use is rather limited, and it is very, very remote,
6 so this might be a good idea to try and protect this particular
7 stretch of water that will eventually flow down into the
8 Gunnison River.

9 Basically, that's it.

10 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Okay. We will adjourn
11 once again then. If you want to keep asking questions, go
12 ahead.

13 (Recess.)

14 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Why don't you state
15 your name?

16 MR. KEN WATTERS: I think that your wilderness
17 is a ruination of the country. That's what I think about it.

18 When you go to taking the whole country, cut
19 it down to the way this is going to cut down, right down to--
20 one guy here, right down to his private land. And I think in
21 a few years, he won't be able to put a cow out there, he
22 won't be able to put a Jeep out there or build his fence for
23 his cattle, and I just can't see it.

24 I can't think of why people can't see that, but
25 it's going to ruin the cattle business. That's what we have

1 been trying to preserve in Gunnison County, is to keep the
2 ranchers in business, and this wilderness is going to ruin it.
3 And the timber and your mining and the whole works.

4 I mean, Gunnison County is full of minerals.
5 It's full of timber, and if we don't use it, the timber will
6 just-- in a few years, it will be gone, because left to maturity,
7 why, it just decays.

8 And mining, we've got to have those minerals.
9 You name the mineral and you've got a use for it.

10 And I can't see any reason why we should have
11 so much wilderness and cut everything off.

12 I'm Ken Watters. I represent Gunnison County.
13 I'm a county commissioner.

14 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Okay. Go ahead.

15 MR. STAN SMOCK: My name is Stan Smock. I'm
16 a rancher in this general area, and I'd like to make a few
17 comments in addition to what Mr. Watters has said.

18 I think that if the statements that were made
19 in the EIS would be carried out, it would not be any tremendous
20 disadvantage to me as a rancher, because I basically just adjoin
21 it. My concern is whether what happens in this EIS is what's
22 going to happen ultimately. In other words, I have no faith
23 that this is going to be the final situation.

24 I have some property also over on the Lake Fork,
25 and I'm seeing a situation over there right now where it has

1 become uneconomical for a rancher to maintain his property;
2 consequently, the area is being divided up into 35-acre
3 parcels and is being sold off, 35 acres at a time, to anybody
4 that wants to buy it and has the money.

5 But the point is that I think that as far as
6 retaining the character of the land and the primitive part
7 of it or whatever, by making it uneconomic for the existing,
8 current land owners to operate the lands in their historic
9 manner, it's going to be a self-defeating situation, because
10 the land is going to be sold, if it's not economical, and
11 it's going to be sold in such a situation that it is going
12 to destroy the character that we now have.

13 Some of the old-timers will tell you about the
14 fine fishing that we used to have in the Powderhorn lakes,
15 for instance, before it was declared a primitive area. There
16 were native cutthroat trout up there. It was a beautiful,
17 pristine area, and when the Secretary of the Interior, Rogers
18 Morton, came out and dedicated it as a primitive area, it
19 received a tremendous amount of publicity, and the traffic
20 almost instantly multiplied by many fold. And it's very easy
21 to find the place now, because all you need to do is follow
22 the trail of beer cans and Coke bottles going up there.

23 What has happened is that that area has lost
24 its character simply because it has been declared a primitive
25 area. And I suspect that it's going to be even more so if

1 it's declared a wilderness area. And I think that you really
2 ought to consider that aspect of it.

3 If it has no minerals on it that are worth
4 saving, then why worry about putting it in a wilderness area.
5 If the timber is no good, why worry about that from a
6 wilderness standpoint. It's not going to be logged if the
7 wood's no good anyway.

8 But the dedication of the land as a wilderness
9 area will in itself attract a tremendous number of people,
10 and the first thing you know, why, you are going to have to be
11 issuing permits to say, Well, three people and one dog can go
12 in today, and have restrictions that we do not have now, or
13 have not had in the past because they were not necessary.

14 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Okay. Thank you.

15 MR. STAN SMOCK: Thank you.

16 MR. KEN MATTERS: Well said.

17 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Would anybody else
18 like to make a statement?

19 Okay. We will adjourn.

20 If you want to ask questions, go ahead.

21 (Recess.)

22 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Are there any other
23 questions or statements?

24 Okay. We will adjourn until tomorrow night in
25 Lake City then.

(Whereupon, at 8:30 p.m., the hearing
was adjourned.)

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Ladies and gentlemen,
3 May I have your attention? Let's get started.

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5 Wilderness Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the
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15 obtained by making arrangements with the reporter. In addition,
16 copies of the transcript and copies of all written statements
17 can be obtained from the Colorado State Office, Bureau of
18 Land Management.

19 I'll go get the list now.

20 Glen Bowers. Do you wish to testify? Is Mr.
21 Bowers here?

22 MR. GLEN BOWERS: Oh--

23 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Do you want to
24 testify?

25 MR. GLEN BOWERS: Yes, I would like to.

1 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Okay. Go ahead.
2 You're first.

3 MR. GLEN BOWERS: Oh, B's must come on first then.
4 Do you wish us to come up there or--

5 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: It's up to you. If
6 you would rather stand, you can do that, or you can speak to
7 the reporter here.

8 MR. GLEN BOWERS: Okay. I'll walk up here
9 because I think part of our audience is back here, too.

10 Well, it's a pleasure to be here and see all
11 these bright faces tonight and, you know, they look like they
12 are all real friendly.

13 Anyway, to get down to the subject and not waste
14 a lot of everybody's time, I would like to just take a stand
15 on one item here that I think involves a lot of people in the
16 United States of America, and that is simply this: I'm
17 personally a disabled veteran, and I put in a little time in
18 two wars, and I hate to be told that I can't go into a
19 wilderness area because I can't ride a horse or hike.

20 Now, if there's such a thing as equal rights in
21 this country, then I think this thing is a little bit twisted.
22 And I think that's worth a little thought.

23 You know, sure, veterans are not the only ones
24 that can't visit your wilderness or primitive areas. People
25 after they reach about a certain age would like, perhaps,

1 enjoy the same thing, but like myself, they can't.

2 I thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Thank you.

4 Verna A. Carl.

5 MS. VERNA A. CARL: I would just like to go on
6 record as being opposed to the wilderness areas for the same
7 reasons as he has, and because so few of our people will ever
8 get up there. Probably one tenth of one hundred percent would
9 ever even go in there.

10 I think the only reason they are going in there
11 now is because of the fishing, and reading these impact
12 records, they said that at the trailheads they had all these
13 people registered to go in there. But they didn't go in there
14 to hike, they didn't go in there because it was wilderness;
15 they went in to the Powderhorn Lakes to fish, period.

16 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Thank you.

17 Vernon Carl.

18 MR. VERNON CARL: Not right now. Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Carol M. Grove? I'm
20 sorry, I can't read this.

21 MR. CAROL M. DRAKE: Drake.

22 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Drake, okay.

23 MR. CAROL M. DRAKE: My comment would primarily
24 concern the economic part of this.

25 There's a lot of us in this county that have a

1 little bit of a problem making a living up here, because of
2 the very limited amount of private property up here. And if
3 we see all this area locked off to any kind of vehicular
4 traffic, any possibility of development, and these kinds of
5 things, then I think we can kind of see the writing on the
6 wall for us.

7 And in view of that, as I see it, why, this is
8 the reason that I would be opposed to any further inclusion of
9 wilderness acres in the State of Colorado.

10 Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Okay. Thank you.

12 Jerrie Bowers?

13 MS. JERRIE BOWERS: I have a written statement
14 that is too long, that I'll present to you later.

15 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Okay.

16 C. A. Mendenhall?

17 MR. C. A. MENDENHALL: Well, I'm opposed of all
18 this cutting everything off, of not being able to go to the
19 high lakes.

20 I understand they're going to put diapers on
21 horses pretty soon now, and when it comes to that, I think we
22 better go to Russia, because I think the Russians are taking
23 us in--within anyway, and it just doesn't seem right. I don't
24 believe in it, and that's it.

25 Thank you.

1 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Okay. Thank you.
 2 DOT Main?
 3 MS. DOT MAIN: Those of us who have businesses
 4 here depend on the tourists who come, and when you put too many
 5 limitations on what can be done here and where people can go,
 6 we will have fewer tourists. So, I'm for keeping the areas
 7 open.

8 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Thank you.
 9 Wayne Hochkins? Hopkins?

10 MR. WAYNE HOPKINS: I'd like to make a statement
 11 concerning not only the impact economically on the area, but
 12 also on the impact of people that have been coming up here for
 13 forty or fifty years. And those people, some of them have
 14 passed away, but some of them are still coming up. They can't
 15 get into the areas that they are blocking off. They have been
 16 doing it all their lives.

17 And economically speaking, according to the
 18 Environmental Impact Statement, it says that it's valued at
 19 about \$18.75 a day. But if you take into consideration how
 20 many hunters are hunting in that area that use this area to
 21 get their base supplies out of, different things of this
 22 nature, and I think you will find that that would be a con-
 23 siderable more amount than that area does pay into this area.

24 Not only that, it's cutting off the access
 25 into some very good hunting area, and limiting it to very few

1 people who could afford horses or things of this nature to
 2 get into it.

3 Now, if we only have one way into it and
 4 everything else is cut off, then that's the only way that you
 5 have to go into it, and that's pointing in a different
 6 direction from our economics, anyway.

7 Anything further that I would have to say I'll
 8 make in a written statement that I'll make later on after I
 9 get a chance to study this report further.

10 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Thank you.
 11 Caryl Rudafsky?

12 MS. CARYL RUDAFSKY: I just wanted to sit for a
 13 while, thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Bob and Linda
 15 Matthews? Do either one or both of you want to speak?

16 MR. BOB MATTHEWS: Not now, no.

17 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: John Parker?

18 MR. JOHN PARKER: I'm a long ways from the door
 19 to say what I want to say.

20 [Laughter.]

21 MR. JOHN PARKER: And I'll probably get a recall
 22 for the Chamber President's job, too.

23 As I understand it, this hearing is for the one
 24 wilderness area, namely, the Powderhorn area. And except for
 25 the exceptions of Mr. Youmans, I personally am basically for

1 this one particular wilderness area, because there has been no
2 vehicular traffic into it for some time, and I don't see as
3 there can be.

4 I have many doubts about the wilderness
5 characteristic. I know before I moved here, when I lived in
6 Arizona, when I went backpacking, I looked on a map and saw
7 the areas that were wilderness, and that's where I went. And
8 I think a lot of other people do, and I think the impact is
9 probably destroying what you are trying to create, but if we
10 have to have a wilderness, I think this is the more logical
11 one to have.

12 When it comes to these other ones, where we are
13 cutting off Jeep roads and mining and so forth, I will be in
14 here protesting them extremely strongly.

15 As far as Mr. Youmans goes, I think it's a very
16 arbitrary penalty that this particular man has to pay because
17 his family settled in an area and had grazing rights in an
18 area which later became determined it needed to go into this
19 classification, and I feel that some settlement should be made,
20 some way, to Mr. Youmans by the Interior Department, because
21 he's getting hit once with this and secondly with the EIS on
22 the grazing permit. And I think all of us are getting equally--
23 treatment on that, but he is, by strictly the luck of the draw,
24 and being a man who got in here and got some beautiful country,
25 having to pay a high price economically in his cattle operation.

¹ The grazing use levels were determined through the
Gunnison Livestock Grazing EIS, based on the existing conditions in that
area. The selection of any of the alternatives for the Pyenderhorn,
including the use alternatives, would not change the grazing use levels.

1 And I feel that the government should make some restitution
2 for the economic damage this has done.

3 Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Thank you.

5 Bud and Janet McDonald?

6 MR. BUD McDONALD: I just have two little short
7 things. I wish the Government would look over these hearings
8 and have the question and answer period first, before we have
9 to say everything, because maybe we didn't understand exactly
10 what it says. Maybe we have a question we would like to ask
11 or two before we give testimony on something.

12 I think we had ought to be able to ask first
13 and then have testimony. You could, the Government, whoever
14 sets it up could, limit what you say to start with, the same
15 as this. I believe there's a lot of us would like to ask
16 questions.

17 My second thing is, some wildernesses do not
18 hurt anybody.

19 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Norma Swanson?

20 MS. NORMA SWANSON: I don't have a written copy
21 to give you.

22 I'm here to express my concerns for the methods
23 used in preparing this recreational Powderhorn wilderness
24 project.

25 Unfortunately Joe Youmans represents the most

1 directly affected family in our area. His actual grazing cuts
2 were rather extreme for one year, and an elimination of
3 several allotment pastures have also been laid on him.

4 Basically he's being forced out of business
5 without compensation financially, and without consideration
6 to maybe having him use non-use areas, allotments you have as
7 non-use areas, for instance.

8 I believe that other grazing cuts in our area
9 in Hinsdale and Gunnison County both will have a similar effect
10 in the long term on ranchers in the area. Yet in the Environ-
11 mental Impact Study we are discussing here, throughout it, it
12 repeatedly states there will be no effect on grazing allotments.
13 I'm not sure what that means.

14 I would like to point out that grazing allotments
15 in that area have somewhat preserved that area for what you are
16 designing as wilderness.

17 Although the area has several public access
18 routes and parking areas, I understand BLM is pressuring for
19 more routes and more parking areas on private lands. This
20 recreational wilderness area is becoming more of a national
21 park monument center rather than primitive backpacking area.

22 This winter I understand BLM decided to stop
23 snowmobiling on Cannibal Plateau. At that time I think the
24 residents had to point out to BLM they did not manage those
25 trails, they were actually on Forest Service grounds. The

2 See response to 1

3 The route referred to was identified as being needed
for multiple use by the Gunnison MFP. This proposed route is the only
reasonable road access available to approximately 2,500 acres of public
land managed for multiple use between the West Dempsey Gulch and Cebolla
Creek. Additionally, this route will provide a base for foot and
horseback access to approximately 6,500 acres in the Fish Canyon, Fish
Canyon Ridge, Dempsey Park, and West Dempsey Gulch areas of the proposed
study area.

1 snowmobilers can continue, as I understand it, to ride across
2 the Forest Service grounds within a few hundred yards from
3 Devil's Lake, then ski, snowshoe or walk the distance to
4 the lake.

5 Very few skiers seem to use this area. If it
6 is cut off to snowmobiling and there is no helicopter use to
7 take the skiers in there, virtually it would be closed to any
8 kind of recreational use or other use during the winter
9 periods.

10 I'm concerned about the State Division of
11 Wildlife huts and their fish stocking program this year. The
12 cut that is rumored is one-third of the regular planting
13 program.

14 My concern for that regarding this Environmental
15 Impact Statement is the comments made in the statement,
16 depending on the State Division of Wildlife in terms of
17 quality of fish and hunting. For fish and hunting, I guess
18 it is.

19 My concern is that eventually it would be, by
20 not stocking the area and cutting back further fish stocking
21 in the area, that ultimately this area would go to the
22 Secretary of the Interior for the elimination of hunting and
23 fishing.

24 These are my objections to the administration
25 of this study area.

4 See response to Letter 14.

1 On Page 77 and 78 of this EIS Statement, it
2 shows that over ten percent of Hinsdale County private lands
3 have been taken off the tax rolls since 1957.

4 This figure coupled with the elimination of
5 many areas in Hinsdale County from vehicle use has severely
6 threatened the economy of the county and our very existence here.

7 Without the local support to manage these
8 areas, including the Powderhorn Wilderness Area, the BLM
9 has little capability to continue to manage here, as exempli-
10 fied by the cutback in recreational campgrounds.

11 Thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Marie Chamberlian?

13 MS. MARIE CHAMBERLIAN: I have no comment at
14 this time.

15 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Joe Youmans?

16 MR. JOE YOUMANS: I'm Joe Youmans. We realize
17 that we have to bend and give, but it is not easy to do.
18 The Youmans roots go pretty deep in this particular area.

19 My great grandfather, Vincent Youmans, and my
20 grandfather, Harry Youmans, helped stock the first fish that
21 were put into Lake San Cristobal. My father, Grant Youmans,
22 and I have cut most of all the trails in the East and Middle
23 Fork drainages, and I have personally packed live fish by
24 saddle horse to Burnt Draw to get them started. Through the
25 years my father and I have named many of the draws in the

5 The Primitive Area is presently closed to all ORV
activities and therefore designation of this area will not cause any
reduction in ORV use. The contiguous areas presently have very little
ORV use. What use does accrue is primarily snowmobiling. The
elimination of this area for ORV use is anticipated to be very
negligible.

1 Primitive Area.

2 As a whole, only the Youmans have grazed this
3 particular area; therefore, we are bound to love and care for
4 this land.

5 As it stands now, with the impact of the people,
6 there is a national park area designed instead of a wilderness
7 area. But by closing the road going to the Ten Mile Springs
8 at the lower cattle guard, it would stop a lot of day-use
9 impact and would stop a lot of problems for everyone concerned.
10 The backpackers that are interested in the area would work
11 harder and take better care of the land.

12 In the Suitability Report, Page 38, it is
13 stated that this area is also great for winter activities, but
14 with the vast amount of flat acres involved, it opens the door
15 to snowmobiling and sightseeing due to the fact that the
16 wildlife cannot winter there, and it also opens the door for
17 more economy to this area.

18 I strongly oppose the addition of the Powderhorn
19 Creeks Confluence consisting of 320 acres, because it adjoins
20 private land, there is a road in it and the possibility that
21 the willows have been sprayed in a portion of this particular
22 area, and the only practical access is through private land.

23 Before this area went into the rest rotation
24 AMP, my range looked a lot better, because the livestock were
25 not bunched into any certain areas, abusing the grass, regardless

6 As management plans are developed for the area, the Ten Mile Springs Road will be evaluated. However, no plans presently exist to close this road. It is currently an important access road and trail lead to the Primitive Area.

7 A field check of the Powderhorn Creeks Confluence found the vehicle route in that area to be non-maintained by mechanical means and therefore a way. The presence of this way would not preclude this portion from wilderness consideration. The willow portions of this area may have been sprayed at one time but they now appear natural in character and do not detract from the areas wilderness characteristics. The difficulty of access to this portion would not nullify it from wilderness consideration.

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2 shows that over ten percent of Hinsdale County private lands
3 have been taken off the tax rolls since 1957.

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5 many areas in Hinsdale County from vehicle use has severely
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10 fied by the cutback in recreational campgrounds.

11 Thank you.

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negligible.

1 of the weather conditions. Before, the livestock was scattered
2 from the lower areas to the timberline areas; therefore, the
3 grass stood a better chance of growing.

4 The fact is that a reconsideration should be
5 made about the withdrawal of grazing that has been proposed
6 in the designated wilderness and riparian areas, because
7 without these particular areas, it puts such an impact on
8 the rest of the AMP, which it will not withstand. Therefore,
9 we have no choice but to cut the number of livestock again,
10 and if the number is cut any lower, it will put me out of
11 the ranching in the Powderhorn area.

12 Due to the Youmans roots here, it is very hard
13 to give up without all the fight I have in me, and I personally
14 am very strongly opposed to the Wilderness.

15 Thank you.

16 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Mike Doody?

17 MR. MIKE DOODY: Yes, I'm basically opposed to
18 it for, I guess you would say, economic reasons. I believe
19 it's bad for the county, bad for Lake City. As Mr. Youmans
20 has just pointed out, he's one individual, but it may, you
21 know, absolutely cost him his livelihood, as well as, I suppose,
22 eventually the rest of us. That's, I guess, my feelings.

23 MR. LOWELL B. SWANSON: That's D-o-o-d-y.

24 MR. MIKE DOODY: Just like Howdy Doody.

25 (Laughter.)

8 See response to 1

1 MR. LOWELL B. SWANSON: Only it's Mike instead
2 of Howdy.

3 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Lowell B. Swanson.

4 MR. LOWELL B. SWANSON: Do I give this copy of my
5 report to the reporter prior to my talk or afterward?

6 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Is that a copy?

7 MR. LOWELL B. SWANSON: Yes.

8 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Give it to the
9 reporter.

10 MR. LOWELL B. SWANSON: "District Manager,
11 Bureau of Land Management, Box 1269, Montrose, Colorado,"
12 dated today.

13 "Dear Sir:

14 "Another meeting has been called at personal
15 expense to those attending, except federal officials, all at
16 taxpayers expense.

17 "Now, regarding the subject at hand - The Draft
18 Powderhorn Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement. The
19 Interior Department officials are not satisfied with the
20 present Powderhorn Primitive Area of 40,480 acres (their
21 figures). They must alter the designation to a wilderness
22 area, and not being satisfied with that acreage, must add an
23 additional 9,660 acres of contiguous lands. This is locally
24 known as contagious lands.

25 "Regarding Hinsdale County specifically, the

1 Bureau of Land Management administers 110,088 acres (their
2 count), in the Colorado River Area. If all BLM proposed
3 wilderness areas are totalled, an astounding 68% is already
4 established as primitive or proposed as wilderness. All of
5 the established primitive and wilderness areas within the
6 county total 221,015 acres. This calculates to 32.2% of the
7 total land area of the county.

8 *Obviously, there is not a possibility that
9 the BLM campgrounds can be kept open for the use of all the
10 public, even after the expenditure of \$70,000 of tax funds for
11 only the Mill Creek location. In addition, from Gunnison
12 newspaper accounts, The Gate, Cebolla Creek, Cochetopa Creek
13 and Red Bridge campgrounds will not be open this season. This
14 list does not include the Forest Service campgrounds. In
15 addition, 22 trash dumpsters will be removed. Who will solve
16 the trash problems?

17 *As of this date, granted that BLM does have
18 mileage problems, there appears to be no budget problems
19 regarding wilderness studies and the publication of environ-
20 mental impact statements.

21 *What degree of economic impact on the county has
22 been determined by BLM for the designation of areas for the
23 exclusive use of animal riders and hikers? It is my studied
24 opinion that 32.2% of the county is ample to satisfy this
25 small minority of less than 1%.

9 Due to budget cuts in the recreation program, services
for these campgrounds had to be reduced.

1 "Respectfully, Lowell B. Swanson, Assessor."

2 That's all I have at this time.

3 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Bob and Helen

4 Whinnery?

5 MR. BOB WHINNERY: Well, the first thing I
6 would like to kind of second Buddy McDonald's, that it would
7 be--if we ever get a chance to do this again, have a comment
8 period prior to voicing opinions, because there is things we
9 would like to ask you.

10 Now, I have been on the Forest Advisory Board
11 at the time that the Powderhorn Primitive Area was started,
12 initiated, and finalized, so I made most of the meetings, and
13 they were pretty stormy.

14 And the final meeting, when we all agreed to
15 the fact that if they would leave everything as is, meaning
16 the grazing permits, the roads that were built, everything
17 that was in the area at the time they made it into a primitive
18 area, leave everything just as it was, they would not sell
19 any more timber, build any more roads, but they would leave
20 everything as is, so we all agreed to it.

21 And at the time they also said this would be
22 the biggest we'd ever make. Because we asked them at the time,
23 we said, "Do you plan to enlarge it and got any bigger?" And
24 they definitely said the Department's "No, this is all we want."

25 So, at this time, I feel that since we agreed

1 to the fact that this area was big enough, not make it any
2 larger, which is largely upon Mr. Yoemans' hands, or a lot of
3 the rest of us, so I would comment I am against any more
4 enlargement of the wilderness area.

5 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Edith L. Swanson?

6 MS. EDITH L. SWANSON: No comment at this time.

7 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: John Benvenuto?

8 MR. JOHN BENVENUTO: I'm sorry I couldn't make
9 your meeting last Thursday night, but I couldn't be two places
10 at once. I either had a choice of going to a civil defense
11 meeting and help prepare against the floods which potentially
12 could exist or attend the BLM grazing, where I feel the flood-
13 gates have already been opened and we're taken downstream
14 on it.

15 Now, in reference to the topic here tonight,
16 I have several comments to make.

17 First, regarding the Dempsey Park area, my
18 question is, as it is now it's not in the wilderness area, and
19 are you strictly putting it into the area for manageability
20 rather than suitability? Does it meet your requirements of
21 lack of imprints of man or primitive area? I believe it
22 should be a multiple use area. I believe you are trying to
23 attach this area as a contiguous area for manageability
24 rather than suitability; therefore, not meeting your criteria
25 as you had set it up.

10 the intensive inventory for the Powderhorn Island
Study Area did determine the Dempsey Park area to possess the necessary
wilderness characteristics of size, naturalness, and outstanding
opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreation
experience. This area has been included in the study area for its
wilderness characteristics.

1 Regarding Powderhorn Cannibal Plateau up here,
2 it's one of the major snowmobiling recreation areas, and I
3 believe it has been proven to the Forest Service and BLM
4 in other areas, where there is virtually no environmental
5 impact damage done by winter recreational use.

6 I question the figures that you have in your
7 manual; that is to say, approximately 85 percent of public
8 comments were favorable to this primitive area.

9 I believe that was made in the first ones that
10 were taken in 1972. But I really recall meetings right here
11 in Lake City, I believe it was in '74 and '75, where we ended
12 up with posters around the room, where there were some forty
13 to fifty persons present. I believe the exact figure was
14 forty-four, where it was almost unanimously opposed to the
15 primitive area.

16 And then again, you note here one paragraph,
17 one small half-sentence on Page 15, where you state that
18 although there is some--local anti-wilderness sentiment was
19 recorded.

20 And then in your public participation review
21 process, there was a fifty-fifty return, where people were pro
22 and fifty percent were con.

23 And I think this, as time goes by from '72 to
24 '79, where you are seeing a larger percentage of the people
25 who are anti rather than pro as when you started the program, is

1 because of everything else that you want to include in the
2 program.

3 One of the things I think that gets me and
4 bothers me along with the other constituents, people that I
5 represent, is the following sentence which I quote from your
6 manual: "The Powderhorn instant study area can also be
7 considered to be an integral part of a wilderness cluster in
8 southwest Colorado."

9 I think the feeling that a lot of us have is
10 like we are being surrounded by a large octopus and we are
11 being taken in, little bits and pieces here and there.

12 While I can possibly see some of the merits
13 of the Powderhorn Primitive Area being a primitive area as
14 compared with most of the other areas, because everything else
15 you are trying to take in and just eating away at us gradually,
16 I'm opposed to it.

17 Economic considerations, as far as the county
18 goes, and the revenues that the county derives, you are taking
19 away forest timber stump which is valued at around \$36,000
20 annually.

21 Also, in addition, according to your reports,
22 you are figuring that this area is bringing in possibly or
23 growing at the rate of eight percent annually. By designating
24 it as a primitive area, you are estimating that this area will
25 grow by an additional ten percent, or an eighteen percent

1 growth rate.

2 Who pays for these additional services which
3 are required and demanded by the visitors?

4 Hinsdale County now is some 95 percent plus BLM
5 or Forest Service administered lands. At the present time,
6 we receive only some .033 cents per acre in payment in lieu
7 of taxes from the Federal Government. And that will decrease,
8 decrease by some 30 percent with this year's budget.

9 The Federal Government is not paying its part
10 of the cost it creates by its presence within the county
11 like all the other taxpayers that live within the county.

12 This pelf money which is used for law enforcement,
13 road maintenance, environmental health programs, coordinated
14 land use planning, and other local programs which are required
15 and mandated by federal lands.

16 Now you want to take away more of these forest
17 revenues and increase our work loads and services while you are
18 bringing in more persons, and paying less of the bill as you
19 do so.

20 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Juanel Skinner?

21 MS. JUANELL SKINNER: No statement at this time.

22 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: James L. Skinner.

23 MR. JAMES L. SKINNER: Simple little statement:

24 I feel that we have more than our share, if there is such
25 a thing as share, more than our share of wilderness areas in

1 this general area, and I am completely against any additional
2 or increasing in size of any existing wilderness areas.

3 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Marlene Zanetell?
4 Zanetell?

5 MS. MARLENE ZANETELL: I didn't mean to put my
6 name on the speakers' list. I was just signing in.

7 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Okay. Well, everybody
8 I call isn't speaking, but--

9 MS. MARLENE ZANETELL: Okay, fine. I would like
10 to say that I am here tonight as a member of Congressman
11 Kogovsek's staff. I might say that he's very interested in
12 that from its beginning to its final resolution.

13 Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Jim Ryan?

15 MR. JIM RYAN: The only comment I have to make
16 in regards to this wilderness program is that I think the
17 BLM, in their process of providing for this, needs a little
18 final direction, a little more coordination within the program.
19 I think there's some lacking prospects and information to be
20 brought forth on this.

21 And any other comment we have to make, we have
22 a letter being prepared through Region 10 in the county,
23 and we will forward it to you.

24 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Dan Hall?

25 MR. DAN HALL: I'm opposed to the Wilderness,

1 and any other additions we happen to have that might make
2 the acreages bigger and so forth.

3 Also, I think that the BLM would be cutting
4 our water off here around this area, and any other areas that
5 would deal with our tourism and so forth, being that there
6 were these statistics back in 1970, just ten years ago, that
7 tourism was number three in our state, being farming and
8 mining taking number one and two.

9 And my sentiments as well as feelings go
10 along with my cousin, Joe Youmans, and the comments he made
11 tonight.

12 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Michael J. Ronco?

13 MR. MICHAEL J. RONCO: Yes, I represent Douglas
14 Stutz, South Fork, Colorado, and we are opposed to the
15 Primitive Area as it now stands and any addition that might be
16 made.

17 That area has about 64 million board feet of
18 timber, which in money terms is about a million dollars, and
19 that means quite a bit to the economy of this area, as well
20 as to the area over just a couple of passes there in South
21 Fork.

22 We are getting surrounded by wilderness. There
23 is already a half million acres of wilderness in this section
24 of the state, and there's nearly a million acres that is going
25 to be proposed as wilderness, which effectively, until the

1 study is completed, cuts off any type of timber operations
2 in those areas.

3 So, it's quite a big economic impact, not only
4 to the people in our area, of the mill, but also to other
5 people in this area also.

6 MR. JON SERING: Excuse me. Could I ask a
7 clarifying question?

8 MR. MICHAEL J. RONCO: Yes.

9 MR. JON SERING: The figure you quoted on
10 timber, was that for the Powderhorn area or for more--

11 MR. MICHAEL J. RONCO: That was the complete
12 area. That was the Powderhorn area, the Primitive area as it
13 now stands plus the additions that were proposed.

14 MR. JON SERING: So, you are saying for the
15 40,480 acres plus 4,471 acres?

16 MR. MICHAEL J. RONCO: Right.

17 MR. JON SERING: Thank you.

18 MR. LOWELL B. SWANSON: Plus 9,660, Jon, is
19 what your book says.

20 MR. JON SERING: Well, just to clarify that,
21 that was one of the alternatives, but that's not our proposed
22 action.

23 MR. LOWELL B. SWANSON: That's what it said in
24 the front of the book before you got to the alternative.

25 MR. JON SERING: Well, our proposed alternative

1 is the present primitive area boundaries.

2 MR. LOWELL SWANSON: What number is your
3 proposal then?

4 (Mr. Jon Sering indicated No. 1.)

5 MR. LOWELL SWANSON: No. 17

6 MR. JON SERING: No. 1. Better read it. I
7 didn't know you had one.

8 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Ann Maxwell?

9 MS. ANN MAXWELL: I'm opposed to the Wilderness
10 area for economical reasons, and like everybody else, and that
11 we here in Lake City, we need to grow, too. And you know,
12 that's really coming down on us just from this area more so
13 than anyplace else.

14 And I think they could do wilderness areas in
15 other states just as well, in lots of other states: Washington,
16 Montana area, and expand it other places as well.

17 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Thank you.

18 Byrne Smith?

19 MR. BYRNE SMITH: Well, if my vote has anything,
20 I'm not just opposed, I'm violently opposed.

21 I grew up here, and I feel 96 percent of the
22 county under federal control at the moment is enough.

23 I don't know how the Germans felt, but when the
24 Gestapo walked in, that's the way I feel right now. I keep
25 seeing just pieces of property go down the tubes, taken off

11 Statement should have read, "Well one proposed
alternative is the present primitive area boundary plus 4,471 acres."

Mr. Swanson interrupted reply so court recorder only recorded a portion
of the BLM response. This is clarified as reference is made,
immediately thereafter, that the indicated proposal is No. 1. This
proposal is the preferred alternative in the EIS which consists of the
existing primitive area boundaries plus 4,471 acres.

1 the tax rolls, tax base is lessened.

2 I could go on and on, but let it stand that
3 I'm opposed to it.

4 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: D. W. Macomber?

5 MR. D. W. MACOMBER: Well, I think it's been
6 very well covered here. I think it's just--we in Hinsdale
7 County are tired of the further encroachment of governmental
8 officials and agencies taking over our area, or attempting to,
9 and I think it's been pretty well cleared.

10 I don't see that there's very much more that
11 can be said. We're against it.

12 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Dan Milski?

13 MR. DAN MILSKI: I'm against the proposal.

14 And I don't understand you people. You can't
15 afford to manage what you have, and proper management of the
16 forest areas will bring in more money, and you want to turn
17 it into a wilderness which will cost you more to manage. It
18 just--it makes no feasible sense at all. It's probably the
19 worst, the worst proposal I've ever heard.

20 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: I can't read the
21 next name. Shellie Morin?

22 MS. SHEILA MAIN: Sheila Main.

23 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Sheila Main. Okay.

24 MS. SHEILA MAIN: I'm new to the area and have
25 just recently become informed of this issue, and am just

1 attending, tonight to hear opinions. I have not really formed
2 any of my own yet.

3 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Okay. Pete Main?

4 MR. PETE MAIN: My vote is opposed. I feel
5 like it does restrict the community's growth, and my feelings
6 are pretty much as those before that I've heard.

7 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Okay. That's the last
8 person we have signed in. A few of you--

9 UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: That's all
10 right.

11 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: A few of you said that
12 you didn't wish to speak now. Do you wish to speak on the
13 record?

14 MR. VERNON CARL: Yes.

15 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Okay. State your
16 name, please.

17 MR. VERNON CARL: Yes, my name is Vernon Carl.
18 And I guess I have more of a personal interest in this
19 wilderness proposal than anyone because of the areation, a
20 windmill at Devil's Lake. I installed the machine on private
21 land at the time.

22 I have one question I'd like to get answered.
23 Maybe I'm not supposed to ask questions, but at the time the
24 mill was put on private property, the rest of the land out
25 there was designated as primitive area, around the mill.

1 This land was consumed under and land exchange, and instantly
 2 installed into a wilderness area. And I'd like to know why
 3 it didn't have to go through the proper proceedings of desig-
 4 nating it and studying it before it went into the wilderness,
 5 rather than just to consume it.

6 And Mr. Bowers is surrounded here on three sides
 7 by the BLM, and I'm afraid that the process will get-- if we
 8 can just assume a piece of land and dump it into a wilderness
 9 bill without any dedication or any other action on it, what's
 10 to stop them from just condemning his land and taking it in?
 11 Paying him like they was going to cross him with a road?

12 I'm strictly opposed to it.

13 There's articles in the magazine that said
 14 that these are ways, and they are not roads.

15 The road up from Long Thompson's was a con-
 16 structed road. It went into the area, and it was closed as a
 17 way by your posts in the road.

18 A few years ago you sent people up there, they
 19 drove a post in every damn Jeep road in the country, and all
 20 of a sudden these are not maintained, constructed roads anymore.
 21 Hell, no, nobody can go on them. They are closed, they are
 22 off limits to us, so there they turn into a way.

23 It's been over and over and over, the same
 24 pattern: You stick your foot in the door and then pretty soon
 25 you've got the whole damn body in, and I'm absolutely opposed

12 The original designation order provided primitive area status for all public lands within an actor's boundary. This parcel of land was within this boundary and when it became public land it was included as a part of the Primitive Area.

13 This access route was originally constructed by Ben Thompson for access to his grazing allotment and private holdings. This access route was never open to public use. Vehicle use was limited for ranching purposes and for access to the private lands only. This was originally accomplished under Section 4 of the Taylor Grazing Act (July 20, 1967) and a later agreement between BLM, Wayne and Albert Mauer (February 16, 1976).

1 to any wilderness.

2 And it's just senseless to keep closing and
3 closing and closing these areas.

4 And I'd still like an answer as to why this
5 area could just automatically be dumped into a wilderness area,
6 rather than go through the same process that the primitive had
7 to be dedicated and studied seven years and all of this.

8 And that's--

9 MR. BUD CURTIS: I believe the original desig-
10 nation order on the Powderhorn provided for not wilderness but
11 primitive area designation of all lands within an exterior
12 boundary, all public lands within an exterior boundary.

13 So when that acquisition was made on the eighty
14 acres, dedicated, it became public land within that boundary.
15 Very similar to action on Forest lands inside of national
16 forest boundaries.

17 MR. VERNON CARL: It still could avoid--All
18 this impact study and everything could be avoided on it,
19 ignored on it, because it's just a piece of public land--

20 MR. BUD CURTIS: The original--

21 MR. VERNON CARL: Now, Bud, if this can be
22 done on that eighty acres, what's to stop it being done on
23 all the lands adjoining it, which you intend to acquire?

24 And another thing on it, the Forest Service
25 now are planning or proposing a RARE II study on the rest

1 of Cannibal Plateau, which adjoins this land, and then it will
2 be absolutely inaccessible.

3 Your articles said we have plenty of snowmobile
4 areas out there, we don't need this snowmobile or vehicular
5 recreation area.

6 Already all of Cannibal is taken off vehicular
7 use except for motorcycles and snowmobiles, and if they pull
8 that area, then you are going to annihilate the only winter
9 recreation we've got. We only have Ramble-A Park, and it
10 could be next.

11 This area back towards Crystal Lake is taboo.
12 You can't get there.

13 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Does anyone else
14 wish to speak on the record? Would anyone like to make a
15 statement?

16 You all who came in late, what we have been
17 doing is taking statements for the record. When we are
18 finished with that, it will be open for discussion.

19 MR. GENE TROUSDALE: Not for the record?

20 MRS. RUTH TROUSDALE: She wants to know if we
21 want to make any statement for the record.

22 MR. GENE TROUSDALE: Not at this time, I guess.

23 MRS. RUTH TROUSDALE: Is it about to close now?

24 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Yes.

25 MRS. RUTH TROUSDALE: And we're just to speak--

1 So you're saying do we want to add anything like, for instance,
2 what Mr. Carl was just saying?

3 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Right. Also, if
4 you don't want to speak now, before July 1st you can submit
5 a written statement that will be made a part of the record,
6 so it will have equal weight with any of the testimony that's
7 been given today.

8 MRS. RUTH TROUSDALE: I have a question. Could
9 I ask a question?

10 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Okay, go ahead. If
11 it's a discussion type question we'll just hold it until we
12 adjourn the hearing.

13 MRS. RUTH TROUSDALE: It's about taxes. Well,
14 I could put it either way, in the nature of a complaint or
15 question, which ever way you would like to take it.

16 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: It's up to you. I
17 don't want to get too formal.

18 (Laughter.)

19 MRS. RUTH TROUSDALE: The nature of the complaint,
20 the last time I checked, there was very, extremely limited
21 access to Waterdog Lake, and it may have improved up in the way
22 and I haven't kept up with what's been done. But I have
23 complained to the Bureau of Land Management about this in the
24 past years, and it has been virtually inaccessible to the
25 public, and yet it's been constantly stocked with public fish.

1 And I'd like to again complain that the public
2 does not have adequate access to not only Waterdog Lake, but
3 that is a real sore point with me, and other high lakes, and
4 it seems to me if the taxpayers' money is going to stock
5 those lakes, the public should have a right to fish those
6 lakes.

7 Okay. That's all I'll say at this point.

8 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Would you give your
9 name to the reporter?

10 MRS. RUTH TROUSDALE: Ruth Trousdale, T-r-o-u-s-
11 d-a-l-e. And we put our name on to receive literature, so
12 we would appreciate it very much if you would double-check the
13 spelling, T-r-o-u-s-d-a-l-e.

14 MR. GENE TROUSDALE: We have been, oh, quite
15 perturbed also at the closing of these various roads which
16 have been here for, say, a hundred years or so.

17 We are told these are our forests, but at the
18 same time, we are told to--maybe not in so many words, but
19 we are told to stay out of them unless you have a horse or
20 unless you have sturdy legs.

21 And, well, I could see for these--a lot of these
22 younger persons, they could. And now they enjoy hoofing it
23 up into the--and packing in, but it seems like about 98
24 percent of the people who--well, they pay taxes for the BLM
25 to keep us out of the forests, it seems.

1 I don't think two percent or in that vicinity,
2 even five percent, of the people being the only ones that are
3 able to see a lot of this forest, which is being preserved
4 for us and our children.

5 I think it should be more accessible, and
6 I don't think a road occasionally hurts it.

7 MRS. RUTH TROUSDALE: Particularly when it's
8 been there for a hundred years.

9 MR. GENE TROUSDALE: Yes. And it seems to me
10 that instead of punishing 90 or 95 percent of the people,
11 that it should be more of the BLM's duty to--if the forest
12 needs to be protected, to get out in the forest and protect
13 it instead of restricting it.

14 Anyway, that's the gist of what I wanted to
15 complain about.

16 MRS. RUTH TROUSDALE: I would like to specifically
17 name one more road that was closed, and I never was able to
18 find out the truth. I was told that BLM closed it. I was
19 told by a member from BLM that BLM did not close it, that
20 private parties dug it up, and I never could ascertain the
21 truth of what really happened. And that is the road to
22 Crystal Lake.

23 It's an old road that's been used by Lake City
24 for 65 years that I'm aware of, and for some reason all of a
25 sudden, why, a couple of raindrops is going to wash the whole

1 mountain away if they didn't tear up the road, so great holes
2 were put in the road and great boulders put across the road.

3 And I noticed more washing after that was
4 done than when the road was open and we could take a Jeep and
5 go up to Crystal lake and fish. I noticed more damage after
6 they dug holes and people drove around the rocks and drove
7 around the holes, so then they would dig more holes and
8 put more rocks. Now, that to me is damage to the forest.

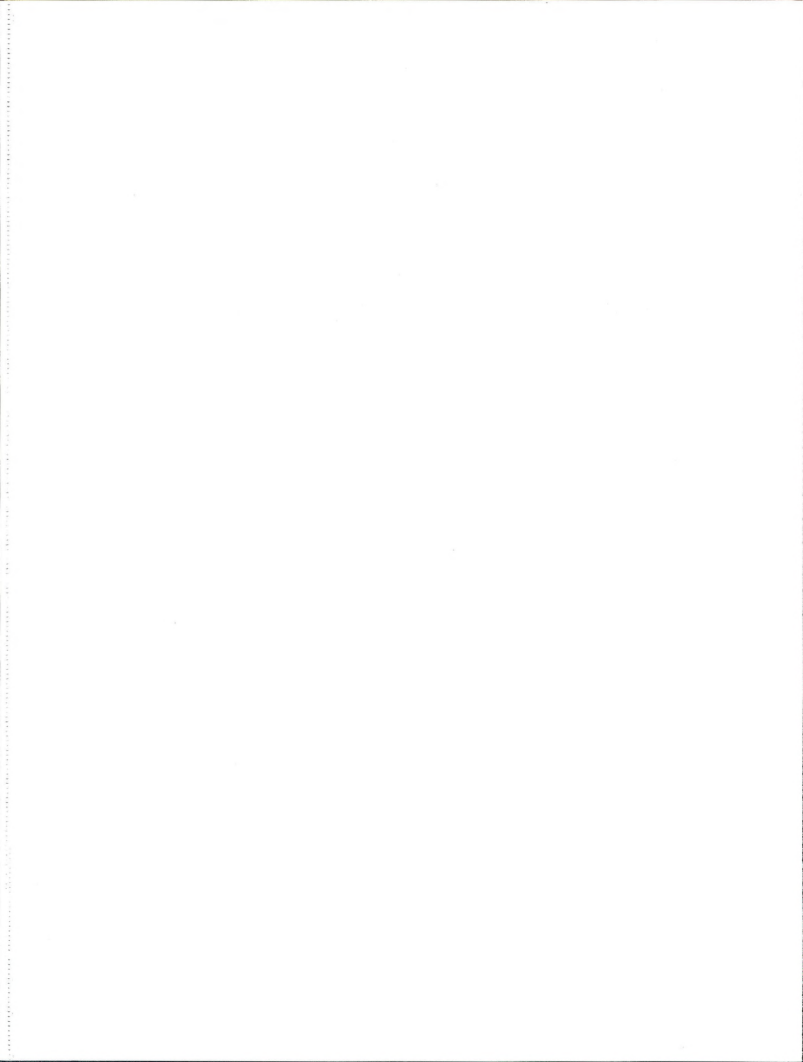
9 HEARING OFFICER McDONALD: Does anybody else
10 wish to make a statement?

11 Okay. We will close the record.

12 (Whereupon, at 9:00 p.m. the
13 hearing was adjourned.)
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LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Title	Name	Degree and School	Experience (Years)	Sections for Which Responsible
Team Leader	Lance Nimmo	BS Forestry University of Montana	8	All
Range Conservationist	John Denker	BS Range Science Colorado State University	5	Livestock Grazing
Economist	Lyle Johnson	BS Agricultural Economics Utah State University MS Agricultural Economics Utah State University	4	Social Conditions, Economics
Wildlife Biologist	Bruce Baker	BS Wildlife Science Texas A&M University Some Graduate School	3	Terrestrial Wildlife
Fisheries Biologist	Jeff Cameron	BA Biological Science California State University at Sacramento Some Graduate School Fisheries/Entomology	3	Aquatic Wildlife
Outdoor Recreation Planner	Alex Van Hemert	BS Park Management and Recreation Planning North Michigan University	2	Recreation, Wilderness
District Archaeologist	Douglas Scott	Phd Anthropology University of Colorado	4	Cultural Resources
Soil Scientist	William Ypsilantis	BS Forest Management Michigan Technological University MS Forest/Soils University of Idaho	7	Soils, Minerals, Air Quality
Hydrologist	Dennis Murphy	BS Forest/Watershed Management Utah State University	1½	Hydrology, Climate
Botanist	Jim Ratzloff	BA Biology/Botany Metropolitan State College, Denver AA Life Science Chaffee Junior College	3	Vegetation, T & E Plants
Landscape Architect	Johnn Sterzer	BA Landscape Architecture Utah State University	3	Visual Resources
Writer/Editor	Steven R. Till	BA Technical Journalism Colorado State University	3	All
Forester	Cynthia Szarzynski	BS, MS Forestry Southern Illinois University	1	Forestry
Wilderness Coordinator	Jon Wesley Sering	BA Geography California State University at Long Beach MS Geography/Wilderness Management at University of Idaho	8	Wilderness
Lead Clerk	Mary Ann Howell	University of Washington	32	All Clerical
Typist	Rebecca Smith	Antelope Valley College	2	Typing



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CONTIGUOUS: lands or legal subdivisions having a common boundary; lands having only a common corner are not contiguous.

INHOLDING: privately owned land inside the boundary of BLM managed land.

INSTANT STUDY AREA: one of the primitive or natural areas formally identified prior to November 1, 1975.

LEASABLE MINERALS: minerals such as coal, oil shale, oil and gas, phosphate, potash, sodium, sulphur in New Mexico and Louisiana, silica deposits in certain parts of Nevada, geothermal resources and all other minerals that may be acquired under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended.

LOCATABLE MINERALS: those minerals or mineral ores subject to location of a mining claim under the General Mining Laws.

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN (MFP): a planning decision document that establishes, for a given planning area, land use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple use, and management objectives to be achieved or each class of land use or protection. BLM's lands use plan. An MFP is prepared in three steps: (1) resource recommendations, (2) impact analysis and alternative development, and (3) decision making.

MULTIPLE USE: "...the management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; the use of some land for less than all of the resources; a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output." (Section 103, Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: a list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture maintained by the Secretary of the Interior.

OFF ROAD VEHICLE (ORV): any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other terrain.

OUTSTANDING: 1. standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent. 2. superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: nonmotorized and nondeveloped types of outdoor recreational activities.

ROAD: a vehicle route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use.

ROADLESS: refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

SOLITUDE: 1. the state of being alone or remote from habitations; isolation. 2. a lonely, unfrequented, or secluded place.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (VRM) CLASSES: a BLM classification system containing specific objectives for maintaining or enhancing visual resources, including the kinds of structures and modifications acceptable to meet established visual goals.

WAY: a vehicle route which has not been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use.

WILDERNESS: the definition contained in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 891).

WILDERNESS AREA: an area formally designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

WITHDRAWAL: An action that restricts the use of public lands and segregates the lands from some or all of the public land or mineral laws.

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APPENDICES



APPENDIX A

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Proposed Powderhorn Wilderness Area

(Map 4)

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Colorado

Beginning at the northeast corner of Section 20, T. 46N., R. 2W.

Thence, southerly up the east bank of the East Fork of Powderhorn Creek approximately 4-1/2 miles to its intersection with the north boundary of Section 9, T. 45N., R. 2W.; thence east approximately 1-1/4 miles to the southwest corner of Section 2, T. 45N., R. 2W.; thence south 1/2 mile, east 1/2 mile, south 1/2 mile, east 1/4 mile, south 1/2 mile, east 1/4 mile, south 1 mile, west 3/4 mile, south 1/4 mile, east 1/2 mile, south 1/4 mile, east 3/4 mile, south 1/4 mile, east 1/4 mile, south 3/4 mile, and west 3/4 mile to the northwest corner of Section 36, T. 45N., R. 2W.; thence south 1 mile and east approximately 1 mile to the northeast corner of Section 1, T. 44N., R. 2 W.; thence southerly approximately 1/8 mile along the east boundary of Section 1 to the intersection with the west bank of Cebolla Creek; thence southerly along the west bank of Cebolla Creek to the intersection with the south boundary of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 1, T. 44N., R. 2W.; thence west approximately 1/4 mile to the southwest corner of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 1; then southerly approximately 1-1/4 miles along the east boundary of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter and west half of the southeast quarter of Section 1 and the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 12 to the

north edge of the Hinsdale County road; thence southwesterly along the north edge of said road approximately 1/16th mile to the north bank of Cebolla Creek; thence westerly approximately 1/2 mile along the north bank of Cebolla Creek to the south boundary of the south half of the northwest quarter of Section 12; thence westerly approximately 1/4 mile to the west quarter corner of Section 12, T. 44N., R. 2W.; thence west 1/4 mile, south 1/4 mile, west 1/2 mile, south 1/2 mile, west 1/4 mile, south 1/4 mile, west 1/4 mile, south 1/4 mile, west 1/4 mile, and south 1/4 mile to the boundary of the Gunnison National Forest; thence 1-1/2 miles west along said boundary, north 3 miles along said boundary, west 8 miles along said boundary to the southeast corner of Section 36, T. 45N., R. 4W.; thence north 4-3/4 miles, east 1-1/4 miles, north 1/4 mile, east 2-3/4 miles to the northeast corner of Section 10, T. 45N., R. 3W.; thence south 795 feet to the northwest corner of Section 11, T. 45N., R. 3W.; thence east approximately 2-1/4 miles to the West Fork of Powderhorn Creek; thence northerly along the west bank of the West Fork of Powderhorn Creek to its intersection with the east boundary line of Section 19, T. 46N., R. 2W.; thence north approximately 1-1/8 miles to the west quarter corner of Section 17, T. 46N., R. 2W.; thence east 1 mile and south 1/2 mile to the point of beginning.

The area described aggregates approximately 44,951.27 acres.

APPENDIX B

REGIONAL WILDERNESS AREAS

There are presently nine designated wilderness areas found within the Southwest Colorado region:

<u>Wilderness Area</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Managing Agency</u>
Big Blue	97,700	USFS
Black Canyon of the Gunnison	11,180	NPS
La Garita	108,486	USFS
Lizard Head	45,600	USFS
Mesa Verde	8,000	NPS
Mount Sneffels	16,200	USFS
Raggads	68,000	USFS
Weminuche	463,429	USFS/BLM
West Elks	194,412	USFS

A portion of three designated wilderness areas overlap into the Southwest Colorado Region.

<u>Wilderness Area</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Managing Agency</u>
Collegiate Peaks	159,900	USFS
Maroon Bells - Snowmass	174,060	USFS
South San Juans	130,000	USFS

In addition thirty areas within this region are under study by the U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management for possible recommendation to Congress for wilderness designation.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

EBM-MIA-MLA

APPENDIX C
United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF MINES
2401 E STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20241

80 JAN 14 AM 1:00

January 10, 1980

Mr. Dale R. Andrus
State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Room 700
Colorado State Bank Building
1600 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Mr. Andrus:

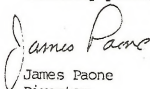
It has come to our attention through the Director, Bureau of Land Management, (memorandum attached) that you have requested advance mineral assessment information from work done by the Bureau of Mines in the Powderhorn Primitive Area. We are pleased to furnish you the results of our work to date and assure you the Bureau of Mines will remain responsive to BLM's needs by making mineral-related information from wilderness studies available as early as possible.

The Bureau of Mines and Geological Survey perform these mineral studies cooperatively, and conclusions cannot be drawn until both agencies have completed their work. Although interpretive findings will not be available for some time, the following may be useful in your work on environmental statements.

In the Powderhorn Primitive Area, analytical results indicate the presence of minor amounts of thorium and titanium disseminated in granite between Smith Gulch and Cebolla Creek. Numerous trenches were sampled within this area, all apparently dug in search of thorium and titanium. Chip and channel samples contained from a trace to 0.13 percent thorium, and from 0.2 to 0.3 percent titanium. The thorium content averaged .01 percent. Manganese occurs in narrow veins and veinlets in the Fish Canyon tuff near Cap Mountain. Samples from manganese prospects contained up to 45 percent manganese in veins and veinlets ranging from less than 1 inch to several inches in width. All samples came from either limited exposures of mineralized granite or from the most favorable appearing zones in a volcanic cover of unknown thickness that blankets most of the area. The thorium, titanium, and manganese occurrences described above were not of economic significance in 1979.

We hope that this information reaches you in time for inclusion in the draft EIS.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Paone". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

James Paone
Director
Division of Mineral Land Assessment

Enclosure

APPENDIX GM-1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Preliminary Report on the Mineral Resource Potential
of the Powderhorn Instant Study Area,
Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties, Colorado

By

William N. Sharp and R.A. Martin,
U.S. Geological Survey
and
M.E. Lane, U.S. Bureau of Mines

Open-File Report 80-1057
1980

This report is preliminary and has not been
edited or reviewed for conformity with U.S.
Geological Survey standards

Mineral Resource Potential of the
Powderhorn Instant Study Area

The Powderhorn Instant Study Area covers approximately 51,000 acres of land under BLM administration located about 80 km (50 mi) southwest of Gunnison, Colorado. A mineral resource survey, made in 1979 by the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines, indicates that both the mineral potential and the energy potential for the Powderhorn Instant Study Area are low. This report is based on geologic and geochemical investigation, examination of prospects, and an aeromagnetic survey. Spectrographic analysis was made of approximately 120 stream-sediment and rock samples. No mining districts are located within the study area.

The Powderhorn Instant Study Area is underlain entirely by volcanic rocks of Tertiary age along the northern side of the San Juan volcanic field (Map A). Despite its proximity to known mineralized areas near Lake City on the west and Powderhorn on the north and northeast, no evidence was seen in the geologic, geochemical, or geophysical surveys made of the Powderhorn Instant Study Area to indicate that any significant mineral resources occur within the study area. Surface geology did not indicate exposed centers of mineralization, nor were any geologic environments interpreted that might indicate hidden centers of this kind. Geochemical sampling results (Map B; tables 1-7) all can be explained by sources in the different bedrock terranes; no anomalous metal concentrations were detected that might indicate proximity to mineral deposits. Results to aeromagnetic (Map C) and gravity surveys (map not included in this report) also can be explained by the known or reasonably inferred distribution of bedrock types, without invoking special circumstances that might indicate a mineral resource potential.

Whereas several periods of mineralization can be documented in the volcanic rocks exposed in mining areas near Lake City to the west (Slack, 1976; Slack and Lipman, 1979; Steven and others, 1977), none of these episodes affected rocks within the Powderhorn Instant Study Area. The nearest altered and mineralized rocks related to these periods of mineralization are in the Slungullion Pass area, 10 km south of the Powderhorn Instant Study Area (Map B) where sampling during the present study did find anomalous concentrations of several metals (table 5). These altered and mineralized rocks are overlain unconformably by the late basalt lava flows that cap the high plateau underlying the southern part of the Powderhorn Instant Study Area. No evidence was seen, however, to warrant extrapolating the altered and mineralized rocks northward beneath the basalt cover as far as the study area.

Numerous small mines and prospects in the area of Precambrian rocks near Powderhorn, Colorado, were established to explore for base and precious metals, thorium, niobium, titanium, rare-earth elements, and other mineral occurrences. Some of these occurrences could well underlie the volcanic rocks exposed in the Powderhorn Instant Study Area. If so,

however, they would be at depths of 400-1,500 m, and would have no geological, geochemical, or presently available geophysical expression. Under these circumstances, the exploration or development of such deposits would be economically unfeasible.

Note: Maps and Tables referred to in this report are too large to reproduce in their entirety. They can be inspected at the Montrose District Office, 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81402.

APPENDIX S-1

GENERAL SOIL PROPERTIES--POWDERHORN AREA

Series	Slope Percent	Elevation Feet	Water Erosion Susceptibility	Wind Erodibility Group	Limitations for Paths and Trails
Alluvial Land	0- 5	-	-	8	Slight-Moderate: LS
Alluvial Land, Wet	0- 5	-	-	8	Severe: W, LS
Carbol	15-60	9,000-10,000	Moderate	8	Moderate-Severe: SL
Duffson	5-40	7,500- 9,500	Moderate-High	6	Slight-Severe: SL
Evanston	5-20	8,000-10,000	Moderate	4	Slight-Moderate: SL, D
Fola	1- 8	7,800- 8,500	Slight	8	Severe: SS
Gas Creek	0- 5	7,800- 8,500	Slight	8	Severe: W
Hopkins	5-45	7,700- 9,000	Moderate-High	8	Moderate-Severe: SS, SL
Meredith	8-50	11,000-12,600	High	8	Severe: LS, SL
Mord	5-30	9,000-10,000	Slight-Moderate	6	Slight-Severe: SL
Nutras	10-50	10,000-11,500	Moderate	8	Severe: LS
Parlin	5-45	7,700- 9,000	Moderate-High	8	Moderate-Severe: SS, SL
Passav	5-30	8,000- 9,500	Moderate-High	6	Slight-Severe: SL
Posant	10-60	8,000- 9,000	Moderate-High	6	Moderate-Severe: SS, SL
Ruby	5-40	9,000-10,000	Moderate-High	5	Moderate-Severe: SS, SL
Sapinero	10-50	9,500-10,000	Moderate-High	3	Moderate-Severe: SS, SL
Shule	10-50	9,500-10,500	Moderate-High	6	Slight-Severe: SL
Spring Creek	5-40	7,500- 9,500	Moderate-High	6	Slight-Severe: SL
Sunshine	5-35	9,000-10,000	Moderate-High	8	Moderate-Severe: LS, SL
Tolvar	10-50	8,500-10,000	Moderate-High	8	Moderate-Severe: SS, SL
Vinta	10-50	8,500-10,000	Moderate-High	3	Slight-Severe: SL
Vulcan	10-35	8,500-10,000	Moderate-High	8	Moderate-Severe: SS, SL
Wetterhorn	10-55	9,500-11,000	Moderate-High	8	Moderate-Severe: SS, LS, SL
Woodhall	5-50	8,500-10,000	Moderate-High	8	Slight-Severe: SS, SL
Woodsley	10-60	9,000-10,000	Moderate-High	8	Moderate-Severe: LS, SL
Youman	5-30	9,000-10,500	Moderate-High	6	Slight-Severe: SL

Limiting factors which may affect the construction and maintenance of paths and trails are indicated. The Limitations do not imply that paths and trails cannot be constructed on the corresponding soils.

LS = large stones; SS = small stones; SL = slopes; W = wetness, ponding; D = dusty

APPENDIX SE-1

Derivation of Recreation Values

Recreation values for the existing Powderhorn Primitive Area were derived using a travel cost model to determine users willingness to pay. The base data for the model was obtained from the visitor registers located at the Indian Creek and Ten Mile Springs Trail Head during 1978. These gave the origin of the party, the number of people in the party, and the length of stay in the area.

Because of the national attraction of western Colorado for outdoor recreation it was found that visitors were spending only a part of their vacation in the primitive area. To compensate for this it was assumed that visitors from out of state spend 25 percent of their available time in Colorado visiting the primitive area. Accordingly 25 percent of the travel from these origins were used in the travel cost model.

The methodology used followed that outlined in the "Draft Planning Area Analysis for Wilderness" by John Loomis, dated October 30, 1978, a summary of which follows. The first step was to estimate a demand for the experience curve (first stage demand curve). Using the round trip travel costs as the independent variable and the number of trips as the dependent variable a regression was run to establish the function that best fit the register data. The resulting equation was:

$$y = 5.71 - 0.02x$$

The next step was to develop a demand for the resource itself curve. To do this it is necessary to develop a willingness to pay schedule. Taking the above equation the travel cost (x) for each origin was put in to estimate the number of trips at a zero additional fee. Then for each origin a hypothetical fee increasing in \$20.00 increments was added to the travel cost until the estimated number of trips from each origin became zero. Then the results for all the origins was summed to get the total estimated trips at each price. Using this schedule a second regression was run using the hypothetical fee as the independent variable and the number of trips as the dependent variable. The resulting equation for this study was:

$$y = 105.06 - 0.74x$$

Solving this equation for x:

$$x = 223.53 - 2.13y$$

Is obtained. Taking the integral of this equation from zero to the horizontal intercept an estimate of the willingness to pay (consumer surplus), or benefits derived by existing users was found to be \$23,460. Dividing by the number of visitor days (1,270) resulted in the consumer surplus per visitor day of \$18.47. It was this figure that was used to estimate the value of increased use of the area for the various alternatives in the EIS.

Bureau of Land Management
Library
Bldg. 50, Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225

